Silver Anniversary

1968 — 1993

Bernese

MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

GOING FOR THE SILVER:

The First Twenty-five Years of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

There is something about the quarter-century mark that gives rise to careful introspection. Twenty-five years in the history of an organization is not enough to make that organization "old" so the thoughts need not be about long-gone traditions, times, and people. But it is enough time to permit the group to have gone some way toward reaching at least some of its goals.

Part 1 of this commemoration of that quarter-century reviews the years leading up to the organization of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. It then summarizes some achievements of the Club in the years since 1968, when a scattered group of American fanciers dedicated themselves to their breed. Many people have been responsible for the development and progress of the Club. Over that twenty-five years, scores of people have been active: Club officers and members of the Board of Directors, Standing Committees, Specialty Committees, and the real backbone -- the Membership, all share in making this Club what it is. So congratulations to all of us!

Part 2 is historic, giving views of some of the stalwarts who dedicated twenty-five years to the Club. Their different vistas provide breadth and depth to the silver anniversary celebration.

Part 3 is a 32 generation pedigree of one dog, whose name was drawn by lot. Only the computer revolution made this possible!

Most of all, this is a celebration of our dogs, those wonderful friends and companions who kept us together and, we hope, on track through this span of time. We have tried to do our best for them, but now pause to re-dedicate ourselves to doing better in the years to come.

A number of contributors helped to produce this booklet. We thank Ron Smith and Barbara LeVlne for assistance with the 32-generation pedigree, and Eve Menegoz and Brenda Abrams for providing photographs. Debbie thanks Dean for putting up with life as a computer-widower, and Mary thanks Ingrid, Imme, and Wacho for tolerating the time spent staring at a similar machine.

- from the Editor*, Mary Daweon and Deborah Godfrey

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The original publication of the Silver Anniversary booklet which covered the 1st 25 years of the BMDCA contained valuable articles by several BMDCA members. This document contains the Cover, parts 1 & 2 and pictures extracted from the original publication. The articles here are presented for educational purposes to inform newer club members of the BMDCA's history. Some of the tables referenced in the text are not included. Statistics for OFA evaluations or other information represented in the tables presented in the original publication are now available through the BMDCA Yearbooks, the Berner-Garde database, the AKC or online at bmdca.org.

We would like to thank the BMDCA and its committees and members for documenting the club's early days in the original Silver Anniversary publication.

PART 1.

HISTORY OF THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Way back in the dim recesses of time, that is, in the obscure pre 1968 interval known as B(efore) C(lub), there were Bernese Mountain Dogs in America. How many and which ones came first may never be clear. Surely Swiss farmers immigrating into the New World brought with them their valuable dogs for help around the farm. So far as solid facts are concerned, however, we know only that in January, 1926, the farmer Isaac Schiess of Florence, Kansas, imported a pair of Bemer Sennenhunde from Switzerland. They were the bitch Donna von der Rothöhe SHSB 23314, breeder Franz Schertenteib, and the dog Poincare von Sumiswald SHSB 21565, breeder Fr. Iseli. Mr. Schiess made every effort to register this pair with the American Kennel Club but was unsuccessful in his efforts. Later in 1926, Poincare and Donna produced a litter, but again the AKC refused to register them. Mr. Schiess, little daunted, registered them instead with the Swiss Kennel Club under the kennel name 'of the Clover Leaf.'

About ten years later a second attempt to gain AKC recognition for the breed met with more success. In 1936 Glen L Shadow of Ruston, Louisiana, imported another pair from Switzerland, the bitch Fridy v. Haslenbach, bred by Fritz Stadler, and Quell v. Tiergarten (kennel name Felix), bred by A. Schoch. Mr. Shadow's enthusiasm for the breed and his work on its behalf were vital to the recognition of these dogs by the American Kennel Club. He was modest about this achievement, writing, 'On April 21, 1937, I had a letter from Mr. Perry B. Rice, Secretary of the American Kennel Club, stating that the Board of Directors held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13,1937, and it was officially decided to recognize the Bernese Mountain Dog as a new breed in the Working Class. These are the first and only dogs of this breed to ever be registered with the American Kennel Club or the Secretary of Agriculture.' The June 1, 1937, issue of *American Kennel Club Registrations* carried the listings of the first two Bernese Mountain Dogs ever registered in this country, Mr. Shadow's Fridy (A-156,753) and Felix (A-156,752).

The name selected for the breed in America, Bernese Mountain Dog, reflects the precedent set in England. It is not a literal translation of Bemer Sennenhund, which literally becomes "Bernese Alpine Herdsman's Dog,' too much of a mouthful for American fanciers! The standard accepted for the breed in 1937 was derived from the standard current in Switzerland.

The breed was slow in gaining a foothold in its adopted homeland. Fridy and Felix produced two liners, but no dogs were registered during World War II, when all importing stopped. Mr. Shadow's dogs produced three more litters. In 1949, 1950, and 1951, Robert M. Youngs, Stewart G. Mayse, and Yvonne Auer imported dogs from Switzerland. Miss Nelly Frey bred a pair in 1959.

Still, in the early 1960s it was difficult to obtain information on the breed in this country, although by 1962 owners in far-flung reaches of America were listed with the AKC. From the south were Dr. C. Walter Mattingly in Louisiana and Dr. Judge M. Lyle in Texas, and in the upper midwest, Bishop W.W. Horstick and his daughter Mary Alice. Enthusiasts in the Pacific Northwest included Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hutchins, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Harberts. Bea Knight, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thompson. These people worked together to promote the breed. Bea Knight established a Bernese program using her imported Gretel v. Langmoos and the Horetick's Ultra v. Oberfeld. The Thompsons imported Bella v. Moosboden and, mating her to the Hutchins' Bobi v. Bauemheim, began the 'Bella" line.

Showing Bernese was a lonely business in those days. Success came first in the obedience ring, when a C.D. was earned by Aya of Veralp, owned by the Horsticks, in 1962. In 1966, Bernese owners showing in conformation were encouraged when Sanctuary Woods' Black Knight, bred by Bea Knight and owned by Roberta Subin, received Fourth Place in the Working Group at the Riverside Kennel Club show. Black Knight went on to become the first Bemese conformation champion in the United States.

By 1966 the breed had made enough headway for owners and breeders to communicate more and more. The next step came in 1968, when fanciers in California led the way in forming the Bemese Mountain Dog Club of America.

Table 1. Bernese registrations 1937-1967

Year	#Registered	Year	#Registered
1937	2	1953	2
1938	1	1954	5
1939	0	1955	3
1940	8	1956	3
1941	0	1957	6
1942	0	1958	0
1943	0	1959	7
1944	0	1960	10
1945	0	1961	7
1946	1	1962	4
1947	1	1963	6
1948	7	1964	11
1949	2	1965	17
1950	1	1966	31
1951	2	1967	22
1952	0		

The Beginning

California was the Garden of Eden for the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. The origin of the Club can be traced to the determination and organizational abilities of Carol Pyle of California Carol, who was introduced to Bernese Mountain Dogs by Bea Knight of Sanctuary Woods Kennel in Oregon, foresaw the need to bring scattered and still scarce owners, breeders, and dogs together across the country. Thirty-three members, owning about 50 dogs, got the Club off to a good start. Initiation of a Club Newsletter by Carol helped bring people together in their interest in the breed. By the year's end, membership had risen to 62 and AKC registrations of Bernese Mountain Dogs reached 43.

A Bernese Quarter Century

In 1969 the Club had over 70 members and was ready for its first election of officers and board. It was soon time for the first Fun Match, held in California in 1970. Another first came in 1971, when an 'in person" meeting of the Club was held in Harrisburg following a supported entry at a show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Twenty regular and three junior members attended this landmark event! Fun matches picked up steam, with “Bemerfest II” in California and 'Oktoberfest* in Michigan. Over the years fun matches evolved into AKC sanctioned events, and finally the Club held its first National Specialty in 1976. After the completion of six specialties, the BMDCA attained “Member Club” status with the AKC in 1981.

One of the earliest concerns of the fledgling group was a constitution and bylaws. Many drafts were circulated among the Club membership. Final approval from the AKC came in 1972. The five major objectives stated in the Constitution continue to challenge the membership and to provide the framework within which the Club functions. Highlights of the Club's first quarter-century are recounted below within this framework.

Objective a). To do all possible to bring the natural qualities of the Bernese Mountain Dog (Berner Sennenhund) to perfection.

This is the primary purpose of the organization. All other objectives can be considered only in relation to the welfare of our breed. This involves not only breeding programs that are aimed toward •perfection[1] but also raising and training dogs in a manner that is consistent with the character and the heritage of the breed. The "perfection' that is sought in appearance can be measured against the breed standard; "perfection* in temperament is examined at obedience trials, tracking, carting, and Canine Good Citizen tests.

Another measure of perfection is that In soundness and health, concerns of the BMDCA since its beginning. One of the early interests of the Club was, understandably, hip dysplasia, a condition known to affect most heavy dog breeds and certainly present in the Bernese. Members have been encouraged to know the condition of their dogs' hip structure and to take this structure into consideration in planning breeding programs. This has been conscientiously done, for the most part, and the resulting improvement reported in the breed by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals is very encouraging (Tables 2, 3). Other orthopedic problems, this time in the elbow, have been more recently reported in Bernese. Radiographic evaluations for these conditions are becoming standard practice in breeding programs. Both OFA and the California-based Institute for Genetic Disease Control provide radiographic evaluations and maintain a registry for hips and elbows.

A highly unwelcome problem, early death by cancer in our breed, became an increasing concern during the 1980s. In 1990 the Club embarked upon a three-year project in cooperation with Morris Animal Foundation for study of cancer in Bernese Mountain Dogs. Results are not yet complete, and long continued study will be needed before we come to grips with this serious problem. Because some cancers appear to be hereditary, this genetic predisposition must be considered along with everything else in breeding for perfection.

Under the supervision of Martin and Barbara Packard, the BMDCA maintains a database containing pedigrees, health and other records for Bernese Mountain Dogs. Club members and others are encouraged to participate to ensure the completeness and accuracy of these important records.

Objective b.) To encourage the organization of independent local Bernese Mountain Dog Specialty Clubs where sufficient fanciers of the breed exist to meet AKC requirements.

As numbers of people and dogs increased, and centers of Bernese concentration grew across the country, regional groups sprang into existence. Early associations of fanciers include the San Francisco Bay Bemers and the BMDC of Menomonee Valley. From a few, regional clubs increased until there are now eighteen recognized by the BMDCA. Some groups have changed name, others have divided into two, all provide Important activities centered on Bernese Mountain Dogs. A Regional Club Council under the umbrella of the BMDCA coordinates these distinct groups. Hikes, seminars, standard study, social events for dogs and people, any and all activities related to the well being of the dogs come within the domain of regional clubs. The vital function of hosting national specialties has been picked up by regional clubs.

Regional groups have been leading the way in a number of projects. The BMDC of Nashoba Valley (New England), for example, was the first to follow up on the BMDCA draft regulations, which were originally accepted in 1979. Their draft matches and reformulated regulations guided the way to the first BMDCA draft test, held in 1991 in Massachusetts. This led in turn to having a draft test feature in the 1992 National Specialty in Colorado. The Three Rivers BMDC emphasized the international character of our dogs by initiating European style judging at a fun match. Two regional clubs, Nashoba Valley and Watchung (New Jersey), are preparing to hold their own specialty shows in 1993,

and other clubs are aiming their focus toward holding regional specialties.

Objective c.) To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed *as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which Bernese Mountain Dogs shall be judged.*

The accepted standard of the breed in 1968 was the original one adopted by the AKC in 1937. It was brief, and perhaps not an excellent document from which to judge a dog. It did contain, however, a beautiful description under the heading, General Appearance: 'A well balanced dog, active and alert; a combination of sagacity, fidelity, and utility.' These are the qualities that have led many fanciers over the years to this magnificent breed!

One of the early projects of the young BMDCA was establishment of a committee for study of this standard. Working with the membership, this committee (Sylvia Howison, Esther Mueller, and Mary Alice Horstick) formulated a revised standard, which was accepted by Club members and adopted by the AKC on July B, 1980. Minor changes to the 1980 version of the standard were adopted by the AKC on March 28,1990. In a highly successful cooperative program with the AKC, the BMDCA (Committee Chairman Esther Mueller) developed a slide show to illustrate points of the standard. Keeping step with technology, AKC and the Club (Committee Chairman Lori Jodar) have recently made a video program, which illustrates locomotion and other aspects of Bemese behavior as well as conformation. These visualizations have become critical tools in the education of fanciers and judges alike.

Recognizing the need for knowledgeable judges, the BMDCA initiated a program for judges' education. This was begun in connection with the National Specialty in 1990, with Sylvia Howison as coordinator. A written Illustrated Standard was prepared to assist with the project. The Judges' Seminar has become a regular feature oat the annual specialty show. Educational materials and a newly revised Illustrated Standard are provided for the student judges. By all accounts, this series fills a real need by increasing awareness of the desired characters of the Bemese Mountain Dog.

Objective d.) To protect and advance the interests of the breed and encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows. This includes the encouragement of active participation in dog shows.

Communication among the widely distributed members of the BMDCA was and is vital to advancing the 'interests of the breed.' The Club strives to maintain contact among members, now numbering over 700, via its monthly publications. This began in 1968 with the first Newsletter, edited by Carol Pyle. The job of editor, that overworked and under-appreciated person, went subsequently to Julia Crawford, Sylvia Howison, Dora Gruber, Diane Petersen, Ellen Pickard, Marjorie Sellers, Martha Decker, Rachel Adams, Janice Lebeuf, Denise Dean, and currently Elizabeth Pearson. In 1985, the publications were divided into a Bulletin for current news and The Alpenhom for in-depth treatments of a variety of subjects. Twelve editors in twenty-five years indicates what a demanding role this is in the Club's functions!

When the BMDCA became a 'licensed' Club with the AKC, R began contributing a column to the AKC's 'Purebred Dogs.' By this means, the wider circle of dog fanciers is kept current with affairs related to our breed. Columnists were first Mary Dawson and currently Julia Crawford.

When the BMDCA became a Member Club of the AKC in 1981, the Club acquired the right to have its interests represented by a delegate at AKC meetings. In 1982 Mary Jo Thomson assumed this responsibility. Her role in protecting and advancing the interests of the breed were put to a strong test when irregularities in registration of puppies came from one Bemese kennel. Mary Jo was a leader in utilizing the still new procedure of DNA progeny testing to reach a successful resolution of this problem.

The BMDCA Code of Ethics was approved in 1972. Although the usual arguments ('not enforceable,' too strict,[1] 'not strict enough") were heard, a majority of the members felt that this Code provided a standard against which behavior could be measured. This Code, with minor changes adopted in 1980, must be signed by all Club members. It addresses breeding practices and encourages breeders to exercise great care in producing Bemese Mountain Dogs. It specifies that good sportsmanship is required not only in competitions but in all activities related to the dogs and the Club.

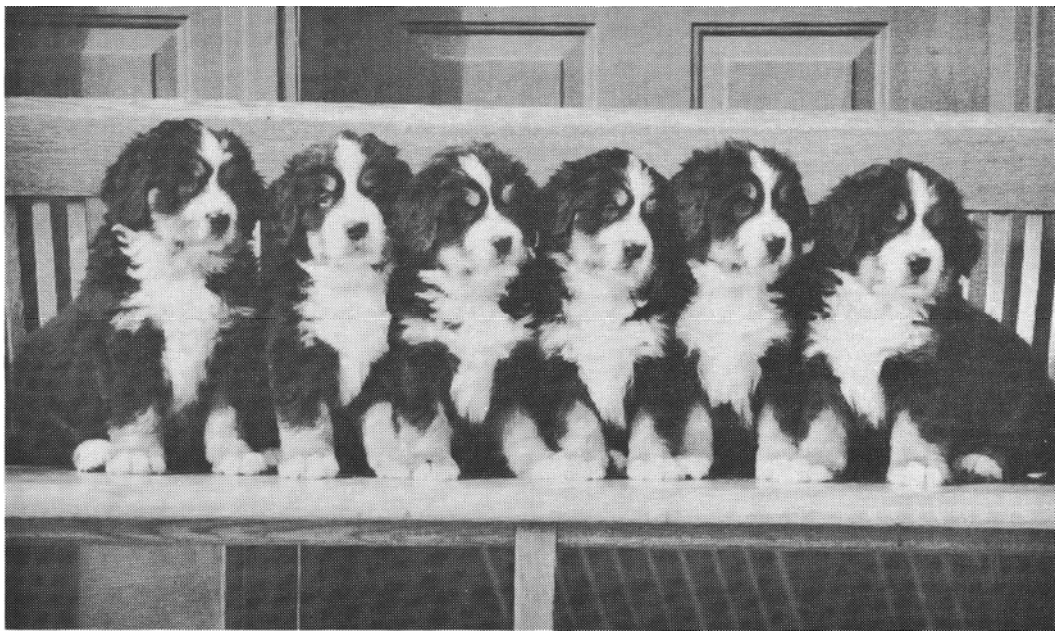
A glance at Table 4 shows that as numbers of Bemese Mountain Dogs continued to grow, they did indeed participate in shows. There were 150 times more champion titles won in 1992 than in 1968! The Club's annual specialty show and frequent supported entries lead to a respectable level of participation in AKC events.

Objective e.) To conduct sanctioned matches, and specialty shows and obedience trials under the AKC rules

We began fulfilling this objective with our first official gathering, a Bernerfest Fun Match held in the summer of 1970 under the spirited guidance of Barbara Packard. Then in 1973 the Club reached 'sanctioned' status in the eyes of the AKC and held its first sanctioned B-OB match in Massachusetts. Other sanctioned B-OB matches followed, in California, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania. Bernerfest scored another first with the first A-OA match in 1974. A second A-OA match, this one in Pennsylvania, led to elevation of the BMDCA to AKC 'licensed" status. This meant that the Club was approved to hold its own specialty shows. No time was wasted - the first National Specialty was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1976. Following the successful completion of six national specialties (held independently since 1978), the AKC granted the BMDCA 'Member Club' status in 1981.

The National Specialty tends to be the high point of the Club year (Table 5). Its schedule reflects the expansion of activities for our dogs. Conformation, obedience, and Junior Showmanship have been standard features from the beginning. Tracking was added in 1981 (Wisconsin). The fun and excitement of an Agility Demonstration was introduced at the 1990 specialty (Wisconsin); Canine Good Citizen evaluations, in 1991 (Pennsylvania), and Futurity and a herding instinct test, in 1992 (Colorado). Carting demonstrations are always popular at specialties. This activity was formalized in 1992 with the first draft test to be held at a specialty.

Going for the Gold: The Future of the BMDCA



We are the future. Please do your best for us.

PART 2.

THE WAY IT LOOKED TO US

Recollections of the "Old Timers'

Of the 33 original members of the BMDCA in March, 1968, eight persevered through the full quarter of a century and are still going strong in the organization. These dedicated people are: Mary Dawson, Mary Alice Horstick Eschweiler, William Hall, Sylvia and Harold Howison, Marty and Carolyn Lockhart, Barbara Packard. Here Barbara, Marty and Carolyn, Sylvia and Harold, and Mary recall some events and impressions of their years devoted to Bernese Mountain Dogs.

Twenty-Nine Years
of the Packard/Bernese Mountain Dog Relationship
by Barbara Packard

1964

It all started for us, in Switzerland, on Washington's birthday, 1964, 29 years ago! (There have been 27 more yearly visits to Switzerland keeping close track of the Berner scene since then.)

Lucki v Chorrichtertiof (pronounced Louki) was born that day in Krailigen, Switzerland, with plans already under way that one of the litter would be shipped to Martin and Barbara Packard. At four months old, he stumbled out of his crate at the San Francisco airport, shook himself, and took over.

At that time, our family consisted of a 15-year-old son, a 12-year-old daughter and a 15+-year-old blind and deaf black cocker, the remainder of a litter of cockers that we had bred. There was also a BeeBee parrot and black cochen bantams that stayed outside if the door was shut, and were soon to teach us some of the wonderful things to expect of even a puppy Bemer. The cocker had a wonderful last four months using Lucki as his guide dog in the yard. Shortly, the age approached when we realized that we did not have control of this dog whose body was full size but whose behavior was that of a reckless teenager. After the time he lay as a limp body at curbside, having ignored the commands to stop when he spotted a dog on the other side of the street, and ran headlong into the side of a passing pickup truck, we sought professional training.

1965-1969

The now 13-year-old Jane and I were the ones who met the challenge in class for a year! After experiencing several trainers, we recognized that we had what was described as an alpha male which we had not patterned adequately at an early stage but we were seeing remarkable improvement. During this process, Jane became interested in OB competition (with me as backup when that interest waned) and from that position we agreed for her to enter the conformation ring at those shows where she entered trials to help make points for the few people who were now showing. Though Lucki was the kind of an obedience dog that would give a tail-wagging performance the audience loved, and perhaps choose to do some single act 'his way' each time (such as lift his leg on a ring post!), Jane felt she had good control of him and was devastated at their first entry in the breed ring. When the judge reached to palpate the testicles, Lucki went straight up in the air - and backwards - in a remarkable maneuver.

We were prepared to have this signal the end of his conformation career, but a popular handler from the SF bay area had seen him and approached us to say "You have a Group winner there, but you will have to get him trained." Jane and Lucki went to Charlie Wunderling's classes for two months, then entered for the first of a four year long string of blue ribbons, including Group for this pair. They had become known in judges circles as the 'dog in the West, handled by the young girl.' At first there were handlers who were arguing with judges to say 'she* gaits that dog too fast, but then realized she was always placing ahead of them, so started copying her free lead style. They would ask her what she used on his coat and had trouble believing her “nothing.” She never told them that sometimes, he had only been rubbed with a damp cloth rather than bathed. They were appalled when they found that his vibrissae were intact.

The show career of this pair ended in 1969 when Jane went off to Swarthmore at age 17. (It was while visiting her that I saw the first fly-snapping* BMD.) During their public career, Martin was occupying his time by being chauffeur to every fairground in California, because you had to travel to find a major (earliest shows even had to combine sexes), and by taking movies. He developed his own betting game at group ringside, because he knew who the perennial participants in most working breeds were and would recognize a new actor on the stage.

It was inevitable that this exposure to the dog world would bring us to importing of more dogs and into the breeder's world. We had never heard of dysplasia until we reached the show grounds. We were soon in touch with Hans Stadtman in Switzerland to start our first international talks about hereditary disease in the Berner. Lucki was four years old in 1968 when the BMDCA was formed by Carol Pyle and I was to start my career in understanding the intricacies of communicating on a national level amongst the owners of dogs and club officers who cannot ever be in a room together. I was also to experience the language and posturing that was expected of me when I entered the “fellowship of the breeder.”

When he was five we had heard enough about the three-year-old registry called OFA, from people like Sylvia Howison who had OFA BMD #1 & #2, to motivate us to get a radiograph and submit it; he certified normal with OFA #3. At this time we knew every Berner owner in the USA, and made an effort to travel so as to meet them in their homes, also. This early contact made it possible to have those first

several hundred confidential OFA normals in our files today. (In retrospect, it is such a pity that we did not understand that it was important to be also recording those that were abnormal; we were all sharing at that stage.)

1970-1973

By now I was working actively as one of OFA's first "Breed Reps", under their founder Vem Bower. At the same time period, our local group held the first Bemer matches in the USA and succeeded in getting Sanction B and then A for the BMDCA. They al occurred during 4th of July holidays and we called them Bernerfests, making a strong effort to have them be fun and games' as our Newt friends described and begged us to preserve. We are proud to see preservation of that concept in the numerous matches being held at other regional sites with an effort to maintain the Bemerfest spirit. Martin and I attended a course at UC Santa Cruz to learn how to use the SPSS program to computerize our dog data, starting with their vital statistics, their people connection and their OFA number.

We became experienced and knowledgeable about the problems of getting a pair of Bemers "tied", and the subsequent problems of getting live puppies on the ground.

I was having trouble accepting the fact that the officers of our new dub could not agree that we should radiograph every dog and submit it to OFA before breeding it. (I have similar troubles now accepting the fact that the officers of our 25-year-old club appear to be as slow to rally to the 1990s call for breeders to recognize the genotype of their stock through use of the GDC as they were to rally to the 1960s call to find out what was the phenotype of their stock through OFA.)

On Lucki's birthday, February 22, 1973, we started a series of nine monthly gatherings to celebrate his nine years. Those nine gatherings built the camaraderie that culminated the next year in the formation of the first regional club, called the San Francisco Bay Berners. One of these gatherings spawned the first all-Berner training class of 15 dogs, aged four months to five years. This provided a source for data regarding growth rates and size/weight variations. At another, we listened to the words of Dr. Jack Switzer who told us it was not enough to breed only normal OFA without doing progeny testing (looking at offspring). He described the work in Sweden which was showing more rapid improvement in hips. The sixth of these gatherings was the July 1973 Sanction B-OB match which qualified us for Sanction A. Lucki attended the seventh and eighth...but only his memory was there for the final, ninth. He died of "bloat." He did not torsion' but lost his battle for life, after we spent the night on a mattress with him at the hospital and a remarkable rally in the morning. When the sudden lapse occurred at 11 AM, I made a promise as I hugged his comatose body: I promised to work as hard and as long as I was able, to improve the health and longevity of his kind.

I then went home to shed my tears on his seven-month-old daughter, Onalee, for whom I had not found an 'adequate1 buyer, and told her that now I understood what her destiny was, thinking it was to be our companion, not knowing that her puppies would be the ones to jar me to the realities of the cancer In her breed.

1974

Onalee was the one who watched for six years while we operated an all-breed boarding kennel and training classes to the standards we felt were needed for a Bernese Mountain Dog. This was the ideal environment for learning the personalities of different breeds and gave me insight to what I call the special needs of shepherd breeds (dogs like ours that have been selected for traits that fit well around people who work with animals). The kennel was also the start of my experience working with organizations placing unwanted pets.

This year the July Bemerfest V, Sanction A-OA Match, met the qualifications for the ARC to authorize a specialty show for the BMDCA.

In October of this year we formalized the SFBB with a group of people who by now were receiving increasing numbers of public requests for carting and later, for square-dancing. Our Berner square dancers entertained hundreds of people for more than a decade. We used the musical routine to practice the formalities of obedience exercises which had the same movement patterns as selected square dance routines. We understand that one of our taped performances on TV has even recently been seen by Bemerfolk in the east.

1979

By now, enough of the SFBB were concerned about our hip dysplasia incidence that they voted (not quite unanimously) to adopt a breeding code restricting the members to use only normal stock (by OFA) and agreeing to share all evaluations through their growing database which Martin had computerized.

1984

The tenth anniversary of the SFBB saw a membership of approximately 80 families openly sharing information as a way-of-life. It was revealing some disturbing facts. We were cooperating with Dr. Wind at University of California (Davis) to study elbow joint problems and were finding that very few of the puppies which our members received, from all over the USA and Switzerland, were without joint or some other important health problem. The situation did not encourage the use of these dogs for breeding. We found that less than half of the pups from 'double OFA' breedings showed normal hips at adulthood. After the repair of Onalee's first cruciate ligament rupture, I had to abort our quest for the CDX and switched to tracking. She sailed through, although six years old, and I was addicted to a new sport.

It was at this time that I realized my focus was shifting strongly toward health problems. I realized how our "fun and games" were being severely diminished by emotional roller-coasters from the costs of veterinary visits which included chronic diseases, surgical interventions and too many deaths before ten years of age.

1986

The Bay Bemers hosted the Specialty in San Francisco. That was the year I traumatized some of our Bemerfolk with the first formal planning booklet...it had a theme, 'Bare Knees'...and one of the pictures had not only Bernese and bare knees, but the lovely lady was sun bathing nude in the park in Geneva! It was the year we had our first overseas judge; Eva Walliser came from Switzerland to judge the Puppy Sweepstakes.

1988

Our foreign connections with the Berner world were convincing Martin and me that it was time to get informed about the use of open registries in various other countries. The database that had been developing over the previous decade was deemed adequate to fill the needs for the open-type registry that Dr. George Padgett, Michigan State, was promoting as necessary for genetic disease control by breed groups. Dr. Bruce Madewell helped while we used it to catch the attention of the BMDCA regarding the need for a cancer study. The database was also adapted to enable the incorporation of the Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals which serves the needs of any breed to set up professionally managed open registries for keeping the diagnoses of dogs with inherited diseases that the clubs have targeted for control.

1993

Twenty years have passed since my promise to Lucki. It was renewed to his daughter Onalee when she almost made her tenth birthday with a death that defied diagnosis, and again to her successor, Kuni, the night before I euthanized him with cancer at eight years old.
How much time do I have left?
I hope there is enough time for me to see the incorporation of the BERNER-GARDE Foundation which will maintain the BMD International Database in perpetuity and without partisan politics. And, I wonder...is there time to see the day when the BMDCA membership assumes that each person win keep their whereabouts updated in that database, will keep their dog records current and will submit the same information on any litter their dog might produce? With those developments, I could finally say to Lucki...and all of those other Barriers whose owners have shared with me from across this country..."I am comfortable that I have contributed as long and as much as I am able."

Barbara Packard and friend

MEMORIES
(Taken at random from a crowded mind)
by Sylvia & Harold Howison

Twenty-five years - it went so fast, Seems like only yesterday that the first litter whelped in the midwest graced our whelping box; the same box that now contains the three pups that compose the Sablemate "R" litter.

It was November of 1968 when that first litter arrived. There were nine pups. Nobody had ever heard of a Bernese Mountain Dog. In March of 1969, the last of them finally found a home. Three of those homes still are inhabited by BMDs. When the litter had not yet been born, we saw, in our daily newspaper, a Believe It Or Not article that said that carved over the main arch of the cathedral in Berne are the words "Machs Na", which translates in English to "Try to copy it". Therefore, our first dogs were named starting with 'M'. The next litter had a cute pup that we kept referring to as 'Freddie'; so the next litter was the "F" litter and then reason prevailed and we started over with the traditional A.B.C plan. When Machs Na and Frederick the Great were lost to heartworm infestation in 1970, Julia & Elizabeth Crawford lent us Maria for a litter so we could start over. In 1984 Martha Reisinger gave us Tradition so that, once more, we could begin again. Martha Decker lent us Clara for a litter in 1973; Lilian Ostermiller made it possible for us to acquire the dam of the "FT litter in 1989. All through the years are memories of such friends and devoted Bernese fanciers.

Other memories - the wild excitement when Sanctuary Woods Black Knight became the first Champion ever; then the thrill of getting to know him when he was acquired by the Alpstein kennels of Hilda Deidrich in Oberlin, Ohio. The speed with which the news of Ch Grand Yodler of Teton Valley's Group First traveled across the country. The long, long drives cross country to attend shows where there might be other Bemers entered. The equally long drives to look at litters -- not necessarily to buy a pup, but just to see what each and every one looked like. The benched shows where the crowd was so thick at the bench that the Fire Marshall insisted that the aisle be cleared.

The gatherings - matches, shows, club meetings; but mostly just Berner folk getting together to meet and look at each others dogs. The Packards' first visit to our home on the day our first litter was celebrating their first birthday: the first majors in Michigan, won by Mary Dawson's dogs all the way from Pittsburgh; the get-togethers when a distinguished Swiss judge visited; the thrill of an entry of 40 at the first large mid-western match; getting to see Ch. Fairplay's Hannibal at a match in Pennsylvania (he had arrived in a Volkswagen Bug, driven from near Denver, and in the company of one adult and two small boys); the gourmet meals at Marty Reisinger's where there was often a group of ten or so and LOTS of dogs to look at; the year our vacation consisted of visiting Marty, the Crawfords, a fancier on Long Island whose name escapes me, and the Gagnons in New Jersey -- all in five days time.

The dogs - Impossible Dream, who looked cross-eyed down the end of her nose when she was really intent, and whose descendants do so to this day; Wendy, the second bitch Champion in the country, whose temperament was the most flawless encountered yet; Hannibal, whose registration papers had become entangled somehow - what a waste it would have been if we had not been able to straighten them out (he finished his Ch. and got his OFA clearance at nine years of age - and would be competitive yet); Basko, the Townsends pride who never had the time of day for me, but remembered Harold his entire fife; Fancy, who founded a long line of champions for Diane Russ and lived to be a ripe old age, still sound of mind and body; Zyta, Mary Dawson's bitch, who won the first National Specialty - a perfect lady Bernese; Martha Decker's Teddy Bear, who didn't really like people but showed well enough to be BOS at a National; Lori Jodar's Ajax, one glimpse of whom from three rings away was the beginning of a long and dear friendship with dogs and people; the BIS winners - Copyright, Pace, Louie - all brought shivers up my spine with their beauty; the dearly beloved pets, Joe-Dog, Bunny, Friendly - each with something unique to contribute to the lives of their owners.

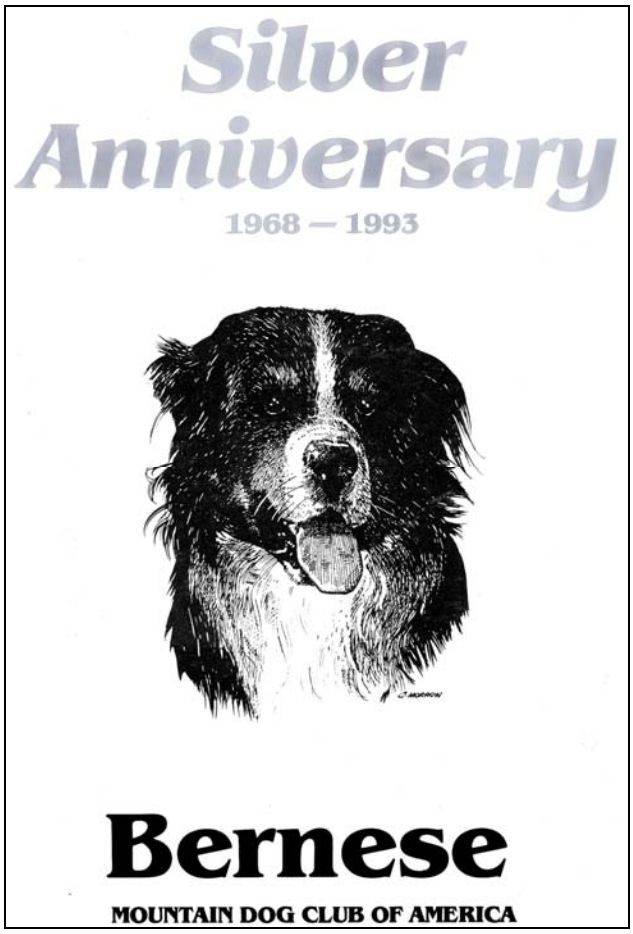
The people - most of all the people -- nowhere are there better people than those who own Berners. Ready to help with whatever the need of the moment is, devoted to the breed, supporters of the Club, friends worth having. From "way back" - Dutch and Esther Mueller, Bill and Mary Jo Thomson, Mary Dawson, Mary Alice Eschweiler, Debbie Mulvey, Julia & Elizabeth Crawford, Walt & Mary Townsend, Sam & Martha Decker, Jim & Martha Reisinger, Jim Brooks, Martin & Barbara Packard - each brings a special memory of a time long gone. The more recent additions to the 'memory bank' include: John & Ann Belknap, Loyal & Lori Jodar, Laurie LeBeau, Jon & Carol Evert, Den & Lilian Ostermiller, all ongoing tried and true friends in addition to the 'old timers.' A growing company of newcomers to the breed promises more long term friendships for all. This is somewhat unique to BMDs. In most other breeds, jealousy and the competitive spirit prohibit close, long-term ties. Perhaps it is because of the multitude of problems we must all face together.

The problems - in the beginning dysplasia, dysplasia, dysplasia - an incidence of 95%. Then reproductive problems -- dogs that would not breed, bitches that did not conceive, bitches that would not whelp -- probably an incidence of 75%. How much better off we are today in these areas - only to discover that the work that bettered the breed seems also to have created a new specter in our cancer problem. Those early dogs often lived to 12 or 13 years. Where did we go wrong? Temperament was often not very good to begin with - many painfully shy bitches. What a pleasure it is to watch as 200 or so go through their paces at National time and all seem to be genuinely enjoying themselves.

Type - in the early days was very diverse; some looked like St. Bernards, some like hounds, some almost like Shelties. Long, hard work on the part of the breeders has resulted in dogs that look like Berners should. Color and markings have improved, coat is correct, sound movement is the rule, rather than the exception.

The Club - the BMDCA -- without the contact made with each other through the formation of the parent club, most of the benefits of experience would have been lost to other breed fanciers. Through the dedicated work of a lot of people, a breed has been developed and goals have been set. The next 25 years should bring the benefits of seeing regional clubs recognized and regional specialties held. There is no better forum than a specialty to share experience and ideas. As more local groups become viable, quality should improve at an even greater pace. Problems that today seem overwhelming will be resolved and new challenges met. The bonds of new friendships will be forged.

Would we do it again? You bet! Can we still do what we did then, we old-timers? Probably not -- but the tasks ahead fall to willing hands. As Club membership has grown, so has the diversity of talents dedicated to the challenges of the future. Together, young and old, we will not fail. The Bernese Mountain Dog forever -- Hip, Hip, Hooray!!!



Marty Lockhart with Ch. Car-Mars A-Miss v. Copyright, C.D., winning BOS at 1977 National Specialty

PERSPECTIVES
by Mary Dawson

Life would not be complete without them! "They" started here in 1966, with Olaf v. Oberscheidegg, called Bläss. Next came Fina v. Nesselacker, the original Häxli. little witch. This nickname was bestowed by her breeders. Ami and Klari Krauchi, because she started all the spats and then sat back to watch the other puppies scuffle. Her nickname was incorporated in the name for our place, Hexliheim, home of the little witch. Klaus v. Kiesenthal, Hektor v. Nesselacker, Zyta v. Nesselacker, Aldo v. Kleinholz, Kati v. Sturmbühl, Wacho v. Sturmbühl, and the Hexliheimers who stayed here -Dani, Elsa, Fina and Frobisher, Imme and Ingrid. There have been a few liners, nine in twenty-seven years, which does not qualify us for the "puppy mill" list, especially as two of the litters had one puppy each.

So while the dogs come first here, the BMDCA has received its share of attention from Hexliheim too. Take a look at the BMDCA Yearbooks. After about five years of Club existence, it became clear that we needed some printed matter in addition to our monthly Newsletters. So Margaret Wilson and I undertook the new project. The forerunner of our current Yearbooks was produced to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Club. It covered 1968 to 1973, and featured pictures and pedigrees of Bernese title holders belonging to members. Then the Yearbooks began their annual cycle, still continuing. Numbers of dogs belonging to members continued to rise, until now (1992) around 150 new title holders are featured each year. The total number of dogs featured by now must be into the thousands.

Yearbook production during the early years was quite original. The first one was printed on a friend's home printing outfit, using a fancy sort of mimeograph process. Collation was done by a group of friends. Round and round the table we went Thank goodness the book was smaller than current editions! The 1974 Yearbook, again printed by amateurs, was collated in the living room of my old farmhouse just before one of our early B-matches. In on the fun was a hearty crew including Mary Alice Horstick, Jane McGovern, Martha Decker, Dora and Max Gruber. We put boards on saw horses, spread out the pages, and circled around and around to put the book together. Antiquated, sure. Memorable, even more! It was a far cry from the computer-generated, professionally-printed yearbook of today, but I cannot help thinking that what we have gained in technology, we have lost in camaraderie.

Putting Bernese and their people together always leads me to the story of Aldo, which I wrote for the BMDCA column in American Kennel Gazette in 1976, shortly after he arrived. Here it is.

This story has a sad beginning but works its way through to a happy ending.

"Early in December, one of our members was greatly saddened by the unexpected death of her eight and one-half year old female. This dog has been in splendid condition, only a few months earlier having been the winning veteran in a match and a few months before that, the winning veteran at the National Specialty. She was not only a handsome dog but also was bright and original in personality. Some members may remember her in obedience at a match several years ago: on the long down command this dog rolled over on her back and then, slowly but definitely, wiggled her way, still on her back toward her owner, who nearly collapsed with laughter. That episode ended her obedience career, as the dog probably planned it would! Although there were other Berners in the household and the owner would seldom admit to such partiality, this female was the favorite.

"The loss of such an original friend and companion was deeply felt by her owner. This was quickly noticed by a few friends, who got together and formed what can be called a "Puppy Committee." They decided first to contact the Swiss breeder of the dog that died and ask him to find a puppy that would help fill the void. One of the Committee members, Swiss herself, was soon on the overseas phone to the breeder. He had nothing available himself but he would scour the country to find just the right puppy, as long as the Committee did not rush him. Meanwhile, other members of the Committee contacted still others, raising funds for the venture. Before long the Committee included members from the East Coast to Colorado. All were anxiously awaiting word from Switzerland. During all this the owner was totally unaware of any scheme at all.

"The wait for the Swiss breeder to find the correct puppy seemed interminable to the Committee. It took the greatest restraint also for those of the Committee who saw the owner frequently not to spill the beans. Finally the word came, just the right puppy, a male, had been found. The Committee could stand the suspense no longer, and they revealed the entire plan to the owner, who was, understandably, overwhelmed! Now there was one more person anxiously awaiting the time when the puppy would arrive.

"Even the arrival was handled by Committee. The Committee's Swiss representative was at Kennedy Airport for the puppy's arrival and welcome, and another Committee member prolonged a stay on the East Coast to be part of the greeting. The Committee could not keep the new owner away and she was there, as excited by the arrival as were Committee members. At this point the owner wouldn't have cared if that puppy had four heads and one leg. He would be most welcome. The puppy, equipped as usual with one head and four legs, was an instant success.

"I cannot vouch for the absolute authenticity of the above account of the Committee's action and feelings, as I have pieced this story together from what I have been told. However, I can vouch for the absolute success of the Committee's venture, because as I write this I am also watching little "Committee Puppy" across the room from me, trying rather effectively to eat a chair. I can also vouch for the fact that each and every one of those Committee members has a solid gold heart!"

That puppy was Aldo, who graced Hexliheim for twelve and one-half rich years. The card that was presented to me along with the puppy contained the names of colleagues and family, as well as golden hearted Club members: Martha Decker, Dora and Max Gruber, Mary Alice Horstick, Esther Mueller, Mary Jo and Bill Thomson, Mary and Walt Townsend.

Any who know me have heard me grumble: about the woeful state of our glorious breed; about cutting off the glorious coats for the show ring; about overproduction of puppies; about the leadership, or lack thereof, in the BMDCA; about the latest absurdity from the AKC. Usually the grousing session ends with my usual, "Too bad the people aren't as nice as the dogs." But then I think about Aldo and his committee, about the later committee that made Wacho a possibility, and decide that, yes, that is what the organization represents to me!

The Beginning
by Carolyn and Marty Lockhart

As in most writings of the past, thoughts come harder than writing about events to come in the future. So let's go back to that time 25 years ago when Carol Pyle, my wife Carolyn, and I were sitting on the bench at the Golden Gate dog show, in the winter of 1968, with the large entry of two Bernese bitches. The spectators flowed by the bench, stopped, then discussing among themselves as to what breed are these dogs? Are they some kind of mix, someone would say. Then they began glancing through their catalogs to find that this breed was the Bernese Mountain Dog. Beautiful, wonderful, how content they are, came the remark from someone in the rear to the crowd, and for the two days we were benched, the two litter bitches from Bea Knight's Sanctuary Woods Kennel, put on a great show for their audience. We all had a great time, that winter day, so long ago.

Yes, it has been a long time, and as with time, everything changes. The animals have changed, entry size has changed, and, of course, the entry fee has changed. To the eight original members that are still with the Club, remember when you would go to the dog shows, hoping that the other one or two Bernese would show up as to make points for someone? Long way from then till now, hoping now that some would stay home so one might have a better than even chance of at least a placement. Well, anyway, to get back to what I'm supposed to write about.

It was quite a chore at first to do much about trying to get some kind of club started. The basis to why Carol Pyle wanted to organize some kind of club was to be in contact, nationwide, with persons who owned Bernese, plus that at sometime down the road, agree on some point where we could meet and show off the dogs. This was tough to do also, due to the vast areas between, and the small amount of Bernese in the country at that time.

The first thing to do was to make up a kind of newsletter to inform other owners that there were other Bernese Mountain Dog people out there. This was the start of the beginning. From then to now, we all know that the Club's newsletter has grown from a sheet or two into a large publication, and the membership from a handful into hundreds. As for my wife, Carolyn and myself, we have had a number of years working with our beloved dogs, in showing, obedience, and carting. From the days of business meetings being conducted in the newsletter, or in the homes of members, to what we have today of meetings being held in large halls to accommodate our large membership.

As for the dogs, they seem to have come a long way over the years. Breeders show more concern for the breed today, as one can see by the OFA numbers that are recorded each year. The old male I have, 11 years, has OFA #575; today the breed is into the four-digit numbers!

I will always remember what Carol Pyle said back in 1968 at the Cow Palace that the purpose of a dog club should be "to promote the betterment of the breed." I believe it has.

Bernese Mountain Dogs Take Rapidly to the South

Glen L. Shadow
Rushton, Louisiana

Reprint from *Western Kennel World*, January 1938

In June, 1935, while recovering from an attack of influenza, I read an article published in the American Kennel Gazette, written by Mrs. L. Egg-Leach of Winterthur, Switzerland, about the Bernese Mountain Dogs of the Swiss Alps. I read this article some two or three times as this was the dog that I so much admired from the pictures showing the dogs drawing the milk carts in my first grade reader when I was a child.

The childish desire to own some of these dogs was not completely abandoned, and while I was in France in 1918 and 1919, I had the opportunity of seeing some of these dogs which rekindled this childhood fancy. Because financial circumstance did not permit me to buy or import these dogs at the time it was necessary for me to abandon the idea as there were none to be had in the United States and no one had thought enough of this particular breed to import them.

After reading Mrs. Egg-Leach's article, I took the liberty to write her and ask for further information regarding them as well as some assistance in making a purchase. After some months of correspondence and untiring efforts on the part of Mrs. Egg-Leach, she succeeded in buying for me on August 30, 1936, Fridy v Haslenbach from Mr. Fritz Stalder, breeder. This was the best female dog of her breed in all Europe and it was useless to say that a very fancy price was required to purchase this bitch. Fridy was awarded first prize in the 1935 dog show at Basle; also Excellent and C. A. C. I. B., which is the highest champion certificate on the continent of Europe, called the International Beauty Championship Certificate and all who have seen her since her arrival in the United States agree that it would be difficult to produce a more perfect or beautiful dog.

On September 28, 1936, I forwarded draft to Mrs. Egg-Leach to purchase Quell v Tiergarten (Felix, kennel name) from Mr. G. Walti. He was not the best male dog in Switzerland, but he was the best to be had as the owner of the best male refused to sell him at any price.

On Sunday morning, November 1, 1936, Fridy and Felix left their homes in Switzerland to embark on the Normandie at Havre, France, which sailed on November 4, for New York. They arrived at New York on November 9th. This date added a new chapter to dogdom in the United States as they were the first and only pair of Bernese Mountain dogs of the Swiss Alps to ever land on American soil. On Saturday evening, November 14, 1936, these dogs arrived in

excellent condition and were met by their new master, Glen L. Shadow of Ruston, Louisiana. After freeing them they seemed to be perfectly contented and after some weeks of personal attention, I transferred them to my country estate. These dogs have been in Louisiana on year on the 14th day of November, 1937. They have withstood the heat exceptionally well and have adapted themselves to our customs and seem to understand our language readily.

I have never seen or heard of a pair of dogs that have caused so much interest among the public in general as these Bernese. On one occasion I took Felix to Monroe, Louisiana, to the Bendall-Vaughn-Wright Clinic to have an X-ray made of his chest and neck. Everyone in the clinic, doctors, nurses, visitors and patients who could possibly get close to this dog, asked numerous questions and admired him greatly. On another occasion Fridy and Felix were exhibited to the Hilcrest Grammar School of our city when they were studying about Switzerland, and the children and teachers were all delighted with them and wanted to touch their beautiful silky coats.

Anyone looking into these dogs' deep brown eyes can see that they have a wonderful understanding and a kind, loving disposition. They are most affectionate toward children and are quite courageous in defending their rights. As a working dog I have never seen one that I think equals the Bernese Dog and if the homes that have suffered the loss of children from vicious kidnappers had had one of these dogs as a pet and pal for their child, no one would have been able to molest them without first killing the dog.

I am sorry that I do not have the vocabulary to describe these dogs as they are entitled to be and to picture them to the readers of this article as they really are. The picture on the front cover of this issue is Fridy v Haslenbach and anyone desiring further information may obtain same from the writer and it would be a pleasure to tell anyone about this wonderful breed. I buy them because I am a dog lover, and I may perhaps in the future have a few puppies to dispose of where I am assured they will have the best of homes and the best of care.

I also want to tell the readers of this article that it was only through my friends, Mrs. L. Egg-Leach, 35 Hochwachtstrasse, Winterthur, Switzerland, that I am today the owner of the best Bernese Mountain bitch in the world and through her untiring efforts that the U. S. A. can claim the best of the breed. She rendered months of service without any charge to me or the sellers and much credit is due her for this new breed and we now have recognized in the American Stud Book.

On April 21, 1937, I had a letter from Mr. Perry B. Rice, Secretary of the American Kennel Club, stating that the Board of Directors held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 1937, and it was officially decided to recognize the Bernese Mountain Dog as a new breed in the Working Class. These are the first and only dogs of this breed to ever be registered with the American Kennel Club or the Secretary of Agriculture.

For the benefit of those who are interested the standard for the Bernese Mountain Dog is as follows:

A well-balanced dog, standing from 25 to 27 inches in shoulder, bitches up to 25 inches; with jet black, silky and slightly wavy coat of medium length; white markings on chest, feet, tip of tail and on foreface; rich russet brown markings distributed over muzzle, thighs, under body and tail; with a brown spot over each eye; which may never be missing; dark brown eyes; which seem to invite trust; ears V-shaped and set on high, hanging close to head; flat, broad, well developed skull; medium stop and short, broad muzzle; level mouth; long bushy tail or brush, carried low, slightly upward swirl permissible; compact, not too long body; muscular, straight fore-legs and well developed stifles; and an all around robust dog. This gives a fairly good picture of a really good specimen of the Bernese species of Swiss Mountain Dogs. – Glen L. Shadow, Ruston, Louisiana.

On the Cover

On the cover for this issue is the Bernese Mountain dog, Fridy v. Haslenbach, born Mar. 9th, 1934, bred by Fritz Stalder, Haslenchbach, near Sumiswald, Switzerland and purchased on August 30th, by Glen Shadow of Ruston, Louisiana. Fridy, at the Swiss International Dog Show at Basle, 1935 won 1st prize. Excellent and C. A. C. I. B., which is the highest champion certificate on the continent of Europe, called the International Beauty Championship Certificate. Mr. Shadow has prepared an article on this breed which appears on page 4 of this issue.

Photo by Glen Shadow

Fridy v. Haslenbach

Boll, in December 2006 **Margret Bärtschi, 3067 Boll, Switzerland**

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain & Margret Bärtschi, 2006

Giving some idea why Burgdorf was chosen for the location of the centenary celebrations and how the early development of the BMD and the club were linked, the article starts with the first ever standard for "Durrbach Dogs" published in 1908 in the Swiss Kennel Club (SCS) journal.

As most readers will be aware the„"Swiss club" celebrates its Centenary this year and many British Bernese owners are planning to travel out to join them for the celebratory week-end in Burgdorf.

Margret Bärtschi, a longstanding stalwart of the Swiss club and a friend of many British Bernese owners, is writing a history of the club and breed which she plans to publish, in German and hopefully English, in time for the celebrations.

We are very grateful to Mrs Baertschi and extremely privileged to have an exclusive extract from this review to publish here. Margret's article is produced following her extensive research revealing previously unpublished facts about the origins of the breed as well as the Swiss club and it includes original photos of the dogs and locations of some of the events mentioned.

How It All Began

Centenary of the Swiss Club for Bernese Mountain Dogs, established 15th November 1907, in Burgdorf (Berne)

Publication appeared in No.12, March 20, 1908, of the "*Centralblatt für Jagd- und Hundeliebhaber*", the official weekly journal of the "Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft (SKG)"and its affiliated societies.

Dürrbachclub

In November of last year, the Swiss Dürrbachclub was established in Burgdorf (Berne), which intends to promote breeding and spreading pure-bred Dürrbach-dogs.
The entry fees are Fr.5.-, The yearly payment is Fr. 10.- The chair is taken by Mr. G. Mummenthaler, the secretary is Mr. Emil Heiniger, both from Burgdorf. The club keeps its own studbook (D.H.S.B). Right after its foundation the Club published the points for Dürrbach-dogs, which are as follows:

Size: Dogs 60 – 70 cm, bitches 55 – 65 cm.
Head:. Oval with slight stop and lengthy muzzle. flews only slightly developed, crown slightly rounded, eyes brown and full of fire, ears short and triangular, covered with curly hair.
Body: rather sturdy than long, with a well arched chest and a strong ribcage.

Legs**: straight and bony, with well developed, stringy hocks, paws round and compact.**
Tail**: bushy and wavy, not carried over the back.**

Coat: **thick and long, over the back sometimes curly.**

Colour: **glossy black coat, rich reddish-brown markings on legs and cheeks and characteristic reddish-brown dots above the eyes. Front part of muzzle mostly white, also the feet. White patch on neck, white star on chests, white collar, white blaze and white tip of tail not a condition.**

Facial expression **: friendly and intelligent.**

As faults are considered**: split nose, hare feet, plump and heavy head, long and slender trunk, Tail bent forward over the back, heavy houndlike ears, eyes too light (like bird of prey, undershot bite.**

As we were told, the Club already has 17 keen and active members. They hope to enter 20-30 Dürrbachdogs at the coming Langenthal Anniversary-Show. We welcome the new society and wish a lot of success. The new club will certainly join the Swiss Cynological Society (SCS) soon.

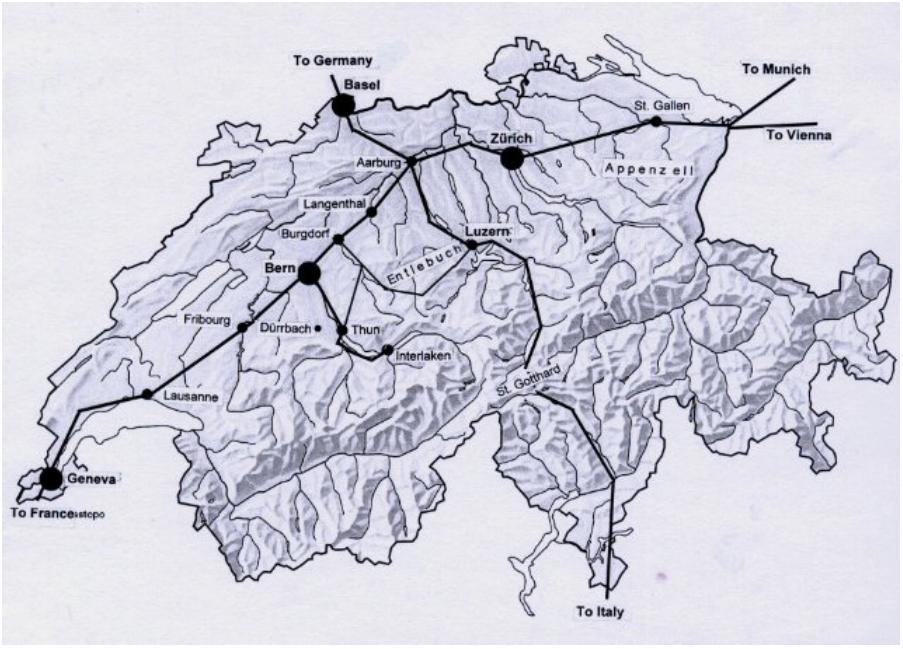
(P.)

The Swiss Cynological Society

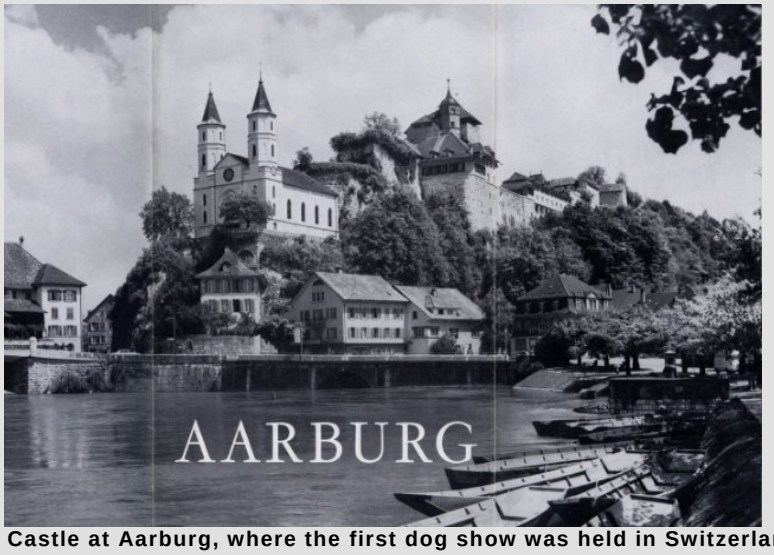
*(SCS) =Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft (SKG) (*Kynologie = science of the dog, from the Greek word Cynos = dog), was 25 years old when this announcement appeared. It consisted of about 850 members, who were organised in 19 local all breed clubs and lately also a few speciality-clubs for single breeds like Saint-Bernards, Boxers, Great Danes, Pinschers, Swiss Hounds, Airedales, Newfoundlands and lately also German Shepherds and Appenzellers. Local all-breed sections existed in cities like Zurich, Basel, Lucerne, Davos, near Lausanne and, since 1899, in Berne. The aforementioned Langenthal Dog show of 1908 was planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the SCS.

The Swiss Cyological Society (SCS) = the Swiss "Kennel Club"

It all begun in 1883, the year when one of the big achievements of the 19th century was completed: the railway-line which connected the north of Europe with the south: The St. Gotthard-line with its famous tunnel through the Alps. Other railway-lines had been built before and connected Switzerland with Germany, other northern countries and Great Britain. Importing of all kinds of new goods had become quick and easy. Dog fanciers became aware of the existence of more "noble" breeds than the numerous mutts and no-breed-dogs they met at home. In 1882, some keen men of the tiny city of Aarburg set up a cooperation, in order to buy and to sell some of these noble breeds from abroad. They organised a big dog show which was held from May 14 to May 18 1882 in the old castle of Aarburg.



Key locations in Switzerland



The Castle at Aarburg, where the first dog show was held in Switzerland.

Three judges had been engaged who generously distributed awards, which of course raised the selling-prices for the decorated dogs. About 280 dogs were shown. There were big classes of St.-Bernards, but also numerous "ladies-dogs" (toy-dogs), Swiss and German hounds and a great number of dogs that did not belong to any breed, but whose "inner merits" were praised. The show was a success and a pretty good business.

But the more important result of this dog event was the fact, that some important dog-fanciers and dog breeders living all over Switzerland, had met and decided to cooperate in order to promote pure breeding of dogs on a more common basis. They decided to meet again the following year at a similar dog show to be held in Zurich. The show started with 359 dogs and on the day of its opening, June 8, 1883, some 27 men met and established the "Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft (SKG)" = the Swiss Cynological Society (SCS) with the purpose of: „Rearing and caring for our oldest and most noble domestic animal, the dog".

Many important reforms and innovations have been created by the SCS within the first 25 years of its existence. 16 International and 3 National dog-shows in different cities had been arranged. Dogs were given a voice in front of the authorities. Knowledge of the characteristics and qualities, the powers and faculties and of the anatomy and inheritance of different breeds were widely made known. Written standards were established for groups of dogs that looked alike and served the same purpose: breeds were created. Most important for the SCS was the wording of a generally accepted standard of the “Swiss National dog” of this time, the Saint Bernard. Written Standards were also created for the four varieties of Swiss Hounds. For many years, some members of the managing board of the SCS, such as Prof. Albert Heim, Professor of Geology from Zurich, or the secretary Max Siber, a lover and specialist in hunting dogs, tried to draw interest to the Swiss cattle dogs. First of all to the “Appenzeller Sennenhund“, a middle-sized, very quick and clever assistant of the farmers and alpine herdsmen in the eastern part of Switzerland, mainly the Canton of Appenzell. But they were not very successful. Not before 1906 did they succeed: A breed Club for “Appenzeller Sennenhunde“ was founded and a standard and a Stud book established.

One other important achievement of the SCS was the creation of a Swiss studbook in 1884, the “Schweizerisches Hunde-Stammbuch“(SHSB), where all the important dogs could be registered. During the first twenty years, only dogs which had been shown and had won prizes at dog-shows were listed. As registering dogs was not compulsory, many famous dogs are missing. From the beginning of the 20th century the management of dog-shows was obliged to report all dogs which had been awarded a prize or a qualification. Therefore, more dogs were recorded. Pedigrees were not yet common and rather an exception. Until the First World War, all dogs which looked like a specific breed were accepted at dog shows and consequently also registered in the SHSB. It was the responsibility of the judge to decide, which breed it was or if it was no breed at all. After the first World War, breeders started to register the litters of their pure-bred dogs, but still dogs which were qualified in shows as “from the breed” with unknown parentage could be registered. Not before1930 was this stopped and only offspring of registered parents were accepted. But there still were exceptions. The last Bernese with unknown parentage was registered in 1935.

Dogbreeders and dog fanciers in the Canton of Berne

It took a bit longer for the new ideas about dogs and dog-breeding to become popular in Berne and the surrounding countryside. In 1889, some of the rare breeders of purebred dogs (Saint Bernards, Newfoundlands, Dachshounds, Hunting dogs, Setters, Collies and others) united to an all-breed-society, the “Berna”. Assisted by the SCS (based in Zurich), they organised a big International Dog Show in Berne which ended in a financial disaster, so that all the members of the young society had to contribute their share. This was the end of the “Berna” and for the next 10 years nothing with regard to dog breeding or showing happened any more in the Bernese countryside.

By the end of 1898, some of the breeders living in different places of the Canton of Berne met again and decided to take a second effort. In 1899 the dog-society “Berna” was established again. Amongst the initiators were Gottfried Mumenthaler, a newfoundland-breeder from Burgdorf, Fritz Probst an innkeeper and hunting man living in the City of Berne, breeding huntingdogs, Prof. Theophil Studer, Zoologist at the University of Berne who had excavated skulls and skeletons of neolithic dogs, Jakob Deppeler, a photographer and fancier of Swiss dogs and Adolf Tagmann, editor of a local paper called “Tierbörse” (= Animal market) for owners and breeders of small animals like poultry, birds, rabbits and dogs and for enthusiasts of hunting and fishing.

This time the “Berna-Dog-Club” decided to move forward more carefully. So, after a small dog-show held just for the Canton of Berne in 1901, they organised a greater Dog show in May 1902 on a National level. An innovation was announced: There would be a trial-class for “non classified breeds: cattle dogs (Dürrbächler) and Leonbergers”. 320 dogs were entered amongst which 4 Dürrbächler-Treibhunde (cattle-dogs) could be noticed.

The four males, all from the outskirts of Berne, were judged by Fritz Probst. Three of them *Bläss*, *Prinz* (Linder) and *Prinz* (Schütz) were awarded prizes. What seems to have been of great importance was a highly spirited article of editor Tagmann in his “Tierbörse”, in which he claimed after the show: “that this breed was as popular around Berne as the Appenzeller Sennenhunde in Appenzell and that these dogs would be as much worthwhile to be promoted as many strange dog specialities that were presently showing up on dogshows.”

It seems that the four men mentioned above (and maybe others too) were the main instigators for the recognition and the promotion of this new breed. We must especially mention Prof. Th. Studer, who had written more than once in his scientific works about neolithic dwellings, that some of the old neolithic dogs must have been of the same size as the farmers dogs in the midlands near Berne.

The Berna-people were confronted with these dogs everywhere: as willing draught dogs in the city of Berne, where they also were called “Küherhunde” (the “Küher” was the milkman who brought the daily milk to every house), they were the cheesary dogs in the villages, the reliable watchdogs on the farms, they drove the cattle to the alpine meadows in the near prealps south of Berne, and they served as cheap horses for poor people from Rüschegg and Guggisberg, who used to cross the country with heavily loaded carts sell their handmade tools and baskets. Of course they had not yet the striking aspect of a modern purebred Bernese. They were mixed with yellow or blotchy dogs, like Saint Bernards or some were almost black, but most of these big working dogs were of a predominant type and in some parts of the Canton, like the Dürrbach area near Riggisberg, almost all of them were black, tan and white with a thick long coat.

The big Dogshow in Berne in 1904

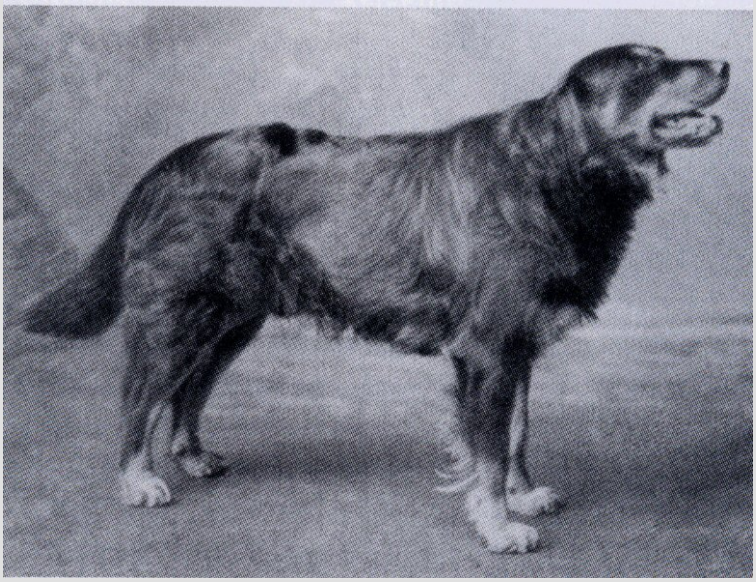
Encouraged by the successful National Show in 1902, the Berna people decided to organise a really big International Dog-Show in Berne in 1904. New attractions were announced, such as competitions for police-dogs, war and ambulance-dogs, water-dogs and more. Rittmeister von Stephanitz (Germany) would be there in person to judge the newly created classes and competitions for German shepherd dogs.

A class for "Schweizerische Hirtenhunde" (Swiss Herding dogs) was installed again with Fritz Probst as their judge. Two Appenzeller Sennenhunde appeared and 6 "Dürrbachhunde": The males *Bläss, Phylax, Prinz, Ringgi* and *Barry* and the female *Belline,* all came from the suburbs of Berne, except *Phylax,* who was shown by a young veterinary doctor, Scheidegger, from Kandersteg. It was at this show when the leading people from the SCS who were present in Berne decided, that the Dürrbach dogs were worth being accepted as a real breed. The dogs which had been awarded with prizes: *Ringgi* 1st, *Phylax* 2nd, *Prinz* 3rd and *Belline* became the first "Dürrbach dogs" registered with No.2698 –2701 in the Swiss Studbook (SHSB). The pure breeding of Dürrbach-dogs could begin.

Belline - one of the first "Durrbachhunde" to be registered

The gentlemen from Burgdorf

The first men who tackled the new responsibility were a few merchants and factory owners from the nearby city of Burgdorf. They had all owned or bred other breeds of dogs before. The afore mentioned Gottfried Mumenthaler, member of the Berna society, acquired the winning bitch *Belline* soon after the show and by "Tierbörse"-Editor Tagmann he got a male, called *Sultan*. These two are the foundation dogs of the Kennel "zur Gysnau". Factory owner Max Schafroth, acquired a bitch named *Prisca* from Gerzensee, a place near Thun, and with the help of Dr. Scheidegger, the vet from Kandersteg, who had shown *Phylax* in Berne, he got a male called *Bäri.* They were the foundation dogs of the Kennel "von Burgdorf".
When the first litters were born, puppies were acquired by other businessmen in Burgdorf and the Kennels "vom Burigut", "vom Sommerhaus", "vom Schlossgut" and others were started.



Sultan – shown in 1907

In 1907 Mumenthaler, Schafroth, Ritz, Haldiman and a newcomer, Franz Schertenleib, decided to show some of their animals at the International Dog Show of Lucerne. Prof. Albert Heim, the University Professor from Zurich, had lately been appointed by the SCS to take responsibility for the Swiss cattle dogs (Sennenhunde). He was to be the judge.

Schafroth, took *Prisca,* his foundation-bitch, together with 3 puppies of her litter of 15th Nov. 1905: *Prinz, Belline* and *Miss* and a younger puppy, the 9 months old *Netty* of *Prisca's* 2nd litter. Mumenthaler presented *Sultan* , and Franz Schertenleib showed two males lately acquired in a nearby village: *Nero* and *Bello*.(Marti).These two males were said to be the really true type of "Dürrbächler" Dogs, because they had a split nose! *Prisc*a also had a slightly split nose.

Heim carefully examined each dog and listened to their owners and encouraged them to report everything they considered worth telling him about this new breed.

After the show, in No 30 of the "Centralblatt für Jagd- und Hundeliebhaber", the official weekly paper of the SCS, everyone could read the first of a long series of famous judge's reports by Heim on Swiss "Sennenhunde", which have been such a vital contribution to the shaping of the breed.

First, he summoned what he had learned about the purpose and origins of these dogs, then he gave his general impression of the quality of the class, followed by a short and accurate description of every single specimen and as a conclusion a guideline for the breeders about the next steps they should take. Heim judged Bernese from 1907 onwards at every dog-show until late into the twenties and he always published a valuable report after the shows which included every single dog. We know from minutes of club meetings printed in the "Tierbörse", that the club members used to read these reports aloud and discuss their contents at their meetings.

When the "Gentlemen from Burgdorf" returned from Lucerne they had learned that cleft noses were a serious malformation and not a proof of better quality of any dog. The two males *Bello* and *Nero* were registered as Nr. 3473 and Nr 3474 in the Swiss Studbook, but Franz Schertenleib sold them soon after the show and did not use them for breeding.

From the registrations in the SHSB and from the reports of dog shows, we can conclude, that meeting Prof. Heim in Lucerne had been decisive for this wine-merchant and great lover of any kind of animals, for right afterwards he started his wonderful career as a collector of innumerable good dogs of the "Sennenhunde" breeds.

Four months after the "Gentlemen of Burgdorf" had met Heim, the time had come to take a further important step: they got together and, on 15th November 1907, they established the "Schweizerischer Dürrbachclub".

Old painting of Burgdorf – this chateau overlooks today's showground

About Prof. Heim, the "Swiss Cynological Society" and the "Bernese Bears".

If we look back at the article on the formation of the "Dürrbachclub" at the beginning of this chronicle we will notice that it was published four months after the event and that it was written by a member of the editorial staff of the "Centralblatt", not by someone of the new Club. Also had the "Dürrbachclub" had not yet joined the Swiss Cynological Society (SCS)

This is quite characteristic for people living in the Canton of Berne. "Bernese Bears", as they were often called, like their independence and do not readily like to much trust other people's wisdom. Therefore the Club had chosen the local journal "Tierbörse" as their official weekly newspaper, not the "Centralblatt" which was edited at Zurich, a city quite far away. It is unknown when the "Dürrbachclub" joined the SCS. Sometimes this must have happened, but we have no minutes of this event. Also we do not know what happened to the mentioned studbook (Stammbuch) of the Club. It must have become lost.

One other point where the “Bernese people” stuck to their own point of view was the question of the proper name of the Breed. As we see at the beginning of our story, Mr. Heinrich Peter, a man from the SCS, had added the term “Berner Sennenhunde” in brackets, to the name “Dürrbachhunde”, used by the Club. In his report about the Show in Lucerne 1907, Heim used an incorrect spelling and wrote “Dürr***en***bächlerhund” and had to be corrected by the Club members. So he proposed the change of name into “Berner Sennenhund” instead of Dürrbach dog to the breeders who were at the Show in Langenthal 1908. Heim always thought the Club had done so. But the answer of the Club could soon be read in a publication appeared in “Tierbörse” No 37, 12th Sept 1908: “We hope that at further Shows of the SCS our darlings will be named with their proper name. The name, which was decided on by the Club after a long debate is: “Dürrbachhund”, with respect to the place and region, where the breed was preserved cleanest of all. As far as the name is concerned, there is nothing to improve, but as for the breed, there lies ahead many years of hard work until these dogs look the way the breed standard requires.”

Durrbach

It is not stubbornness which made the club stick to its original name of the breed. There are mainly two reasons
1] People who know both breeds will soon realise, that an Appenzeller Sennenhund is quite a different type and character of dog. He and the “Dürrbächler“ are not at all the same dogs in a smaller and a bigger variety.
2] Where people from eastern parts use “Senn” and “Sennenhund” for the alpine herdsman and his dog, people in the Canton of Berne speak of the “Küher” (Kuh=Cow) and the “Küherhund”. Therefore “Sennenhund” sounded awry in the ears of the Club members.

The consequence was that for many years both terms were used. In publications of the club, they used “Dürrbachhund” and in publications of the SCS “Berner Sennenhund” was used. In 1912 the Club used “Berner Sennenhund Club” the first time in an official paper. Even today older people living in the Canton of Berne use the term “Dürrbächler” when they see a Bernese Mountain dog.

Prof. Albert Heim and Adolf Tagmann – two lovers of the breed

Most historians of the breed have based their information only on the writings of Prof. Heim as their source, especially on his famous booklet “Die Schweizer Sennenhunde” (The Swiss cattle dogs) which he wrote on occasion of the “Schweizerische Landesausstellung” 1914, the “Swiss National Exhibition”. However, if we want to get a more detailed insight into what happened during these first years, we need to read the journals and magazines written by other people as well. A good source for more detailed information are the articles by Adolf Tagmann in the “Tierbörse”. He was living in Berne and familiar with the town and country life in the Canton of Berne, whereas Prof. Heim was an extremely busy University Professor, living in the City of Zürich, who met the dogs mainly at the shows where he judged. From Tagmann’s reports we learn who the founding members of the young club were and we also read more about the occurrence, the use, the aspect and the character of the “Dürrbächler-dogs”. In the summer of 1907 Tagmann even published a book on poultry- and dog-science, in which he gave descriptions of several known breeds, amongst which he depicted the “Berner Sennenhund” with a breed-standard of his own and a list of seven breeders. We learn from Tagmann that Dürrbächler dogs were still very common in the country. It seems that Heim’s statement, that the “Sennenhunde” were almost extinct by the time they were discovered, was overstated. Maybe he was told this by some breeders or it was the impression he got at dog shows where Sennenhunde had appeared so late after numerous foreign breeds had become a fashion.

When, in 1910, the Club put adverts in the local papers, that every person who would present a Dürrbach Dog on April 24th in the fields besides the riding hall at Burgdorf, would be awarded with a prize, 107 dogs were presented of which 99 were considered to be true Dürrbächler dogs. About 60 of the dogs and bitches were bred by or in possession of Club Members. About 40 had never been shown before and were shown by newcomers. They were invited to join the Club and even Heim came to the conclusion that the “Berner Sennenhund” was still quite common in the countryside of Burgdorf and Berne.

Heim and Tagmann, both breeders of Newfoundlands, never really co-operated, because they had a serious disagreement on breeding Newfies: Tagmann preferred the huge continental type whereas Heim had imported dogs from their original homeland and pleaded for a more natural and active working dog. In some of Tagmann's articles in the "Tierbörse" he denigrated Heim's beloved Newfoundlands as the "small professor-dogs". Tagmann has done a lot to propagate the Berner Sennenhund in his home-country. He also did an excellent job educating dog owners in rearing puppies, feeding dogs properly or training dogs for certain jobs. Nevertheless we state that the members of the young Dürrbach Club got more and more confidence from the Professor from Zurich. It seems that they had checked with him their first breed-standard before publishing it after the Club had been established, because they fixed the size of the dogs on 60-70 cm for males and 55 to 65 cm for bitches, and not 70 to 72 cm for males and 65 to 70 cm for bitches, as Tagmann had proposed in his book and in some of his articles.

There is an other very important point, which we benefit from, when the "Dürrbach-people" had trusted their tutor Heim more than the prophet in their neighbourhood: For 1908, two dog shows were announced: A Swiss dog show on June 6th and 7th in Interlaken and a big International dog show, the Jubilee-Show of the SCS on 29th and 30th August, in Langenthal. The members of the lately founded Dürrbach-Club were keen to show great numbers of their dogs at both shows, so they entered 22 exhibits, 13 males and 9 females in Interlaken.

Adolf Tagmann was the judge. A new situation had cropped up: some of the dogs had short hair (Stockhaar). So we read in the list of prized dogs: "The shorthair and the long hair varieties were judged in two separate classes." Unfortunately, we are not told which dogs and how many of each variety.

One of Heim's greatest decisions

In Langenthal, where Heim was the judge, the Club expected the same procedure. 21 dogs had been entered. As the club had scheduled, Heim started with the longhair variety and judged 7 males, when Bello, the first shorthair entered the Ring.

At this point happened what was crucial to the breed. In Heim's report we read:
"The short hair arrives!

No 442*, Bello*, (Owner Schertenleib) is a magnificent old herding-(butchers-) dog of the great, disappearing breed. The dog has 67cm height at withers, is of an enormous constitution and fiery colours... In this class he is an unfitting giant...He does not belong here..."

No 443, *Nero.* ... With his short hair this boy looks too much like an Appenzeller. Bernese should have longer hair!"
And in his final report he writes: "I think that for the Dürrbach-dogs a long coat should be preferred. It is the rule and a good distinction from the Appenzeller Sennenhund, whereas the short hair should be the rule for the Great Sennen- oder Metzgerhund (herdsman or butchers dog)...

Both, *Nero* and *Bello* were registered after the show in the Swiss Studbook SHSB, but not as shorthaired "Dürrbächler-Dogs", but as the first "Great Swiss Mountain Dogs". A new breed had been created!

We know from other reports, that within the Club there was a big discussion if short hair dogs should be excluded from the breeding programme or not. Some breeders used short hair dogs as well. But in the end, long hair was the rule.

Heim had, in these first days when the breed club was started, set the Club on the right track: he had excluded the split nose, he had given the breed a reasonable size and he had promoted the longhaired variety.
By the end of 1908 he could say about the young Club:

"Good breeding material and the right people are now together to promote a very Swiss breed, the Bernese Mountain Dog, in order to increase its rank, to enhance it and to refine it.

Congratulations to the young Club and to all the lovers of this breed and to each one of these spirited and colourful animals."

The original text and images contained in this document were created by **Margret Bärtschi, 3067 Boll, Switzerland**
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with many thanks to the author and the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain,
and with respect to all those in history who have appreciated and contributed to the development of the Bernese Mountain Dog.

THE OBSERVER'S BOOK OF DOGS

By
CLIFFORD L. B. HUBBARD
('CANIS')

Describing
THREE HUNDRED BREEDS AND VARIETIES
with
148 *illustrations*

FREDERICK WARNE & CO. LTD.
LONDON AND NEW YORK

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

Bernese Sennenhund ; Dürbächler

Here is the second largest of the Swiss Mountain Dogs or Sennenhund. Being long-coated, he is rather like the large Swiss draught dog, but is smaller in size. The breed is named after the Canton of Berne, and is by far the most popular of the Swiss breeds . . . one cannot help but observe how the St. Bernard is so very well known, whilst his cousin, the Bernese, who has been in Switzerland far longer, is comparatively a stranger outside his own country. He is often used as a haulage dog for the basket weavers of Berne. The Bernese was first imported through Scotland in 1936 ; since then, largely through the pioneering work of Mrs. Egg-Leach, the breed's " Ambassador," it was admitted in 1937 to the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club.

Height 23–27½ in. Weight about 55 lb. Colour jet black with white " self " markings. Coat long, undulating and silky.

Zürich 7. 1 May 1936

To the General and Jubilee-Assembly of the Club for the "Big Swiss Mountain Dogs"

Dear Friends of the Big Swiss Mountain Dogs*

You have most kindly invited me to your meeting and the twenty-fifth birthday festivity. I thank you! How I would like to have come to you! But I am in my 88th year of life and too weak to attend. As part of the festivity I am sending you a few written words which I would have spoken if feeling healthier. Please have them read to the group.

(Auf Rothöhe**) From Rothöhe, Switzerland

Be it known to all of you, my dear friends of the Mountain Dogs, that you are standing here on the grounds, surrounded by the park and house of the late famous animal lover, who:

In 1892 brought the `Dürrbächler´ (i.e. the ancient name for the Bernese Mountain Dog) to Burgdorf, Switzerland, and then again exhibited them in1912 in Bern, Switzerland. He then became a successful breeder of those dogs for many years.

In 1912 he brought the Entlebucher and exhibited them in 1913 in Langenthal, Switzerland, for the very first time.

And that he was the one who rescued the Big Swiss Mountain Dog from extinction!

That was Franz Schertenleib of Rothöhe, Switzerland. Thanks be to him!

How did this happen? As late as 1850 the Big Swiss Mountain Dog could be found all over Switzerland. Then, imported dogs of famous names and with pedigrees replaced him - he, "the common butcher´s dog without descent and name of breed." One did not see the fact that he was to be found everywhere: proof the animal to be a balanced, indigenous native old race of better, higher content, better than the displacers. By 1880 he was almost totally undiscoverable.

Then, on a journey, our friend Franz Schertenleib met in Schöntannen, Switzerland, between the towns of Schwarzenberg and Gurnigel a big dog like he never had seen before. Colored as the Dürrbächler but with short hair and a stronger, bigger build.

Franz Schertenleib was so impressed by the animal that he bought it and brought it to the judges-ring together with his Bernese in September 1908. He wanted to know, if the dog was something special, he expected no evaluation, he said. I, the judge looked at the dog strictly, then I joyfully shouted, "there, you have recovered the big `Bläß´***(bläss or blaze), believed lost!! The Big Swiss Mountain Dog." And with that remark I gladly gave him a rating of "vorzüglich" excellent and the first prize. Possibly this breed was to be rescued.

And with these words the race was baptized, and the SKG (Schweizer Kynologische Gesellschaft-Swiss Cynological Society) was the baptismal maid. Today, "Bello vom Schloßgut" would still be a winner. Soon Franz Schertenleib, the eager searcher, looked for, found and brought other Big Swiss Mountain Dogs, like "Barry" for Mr. Imhof, and "Belline" for Mr. Jaussi and some others. The ancestors of a whole race now were together! Good luck to you, multiply!

Off course, if we wanted to rescue the old breed we could not be modestly silent. At first they were discussed in the judges´ reports and requested for further search for the still existing breed, then exhibited. At a following exhibition there were 4, then 8, then 10 "Big Swiss" presented. Our president now estimates the number at about 300. Some 28 years ago we, the deceased or decrepit, found our breed again and recognized it. All of you have now, for a quarter of a century bred, educated, and practically held her and raised her.

My hearty thanks to all of you and especially the leaders of our clubs together with this plea: Be faithful to our club and our breed, faithful as the Big Mountain Dog.

May I,1936 Albert Heim

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jpg image of actual speech - Huge image file expect lengthy download

Translation notes:
* In spite of actual habits the name of the breed is translated correctly.
** Rothöhe is a hilltop overlooking Burgdorf where Franz Schertenleib lived. Schertenleib was the 1st registered member in the Klub für grosse Schweitzer Sennenhund, besides an admirer of dogs he was also a wine dealer.
***A dog with a broad white marking over the nose and forehead was a "Bläss".

note: Among farmers and the majority of the rural population there were no specific breed names for their dogs, they simply didn't care. The local dogs were called names depending on their colors. If the dog had a

marked white collar closed over the back, he was called a "Ringgi". A dog with a broad white marking over the nose and forehead was a "Bläss". When the white marking was less pronounced or even missing he was a "Bäri". In the Emmental this dog was also called "Gelbbäckler" (yellow cheeks) or because of his yellow marks over the eyes "Vieräugler" (four eyes).

This translation was primarily done by Dr. Wolfgang Reese of Wallau, Germany, and with some common English translation help from Sandra Muench a GSMD owner now living in Germany.

Thanks to Marc Nussbaumer and the Natural History Museum in Bern for their continued support on this project.

1.)

Zürich 7. 1. V. 1936

An die

General- und Jubiläums-Versammlung

des Klub für Grosse Schweizersennenhunde.

Liebe Freunde der Grossen Schweizer-
Sennenhunde!

Ihr habt mich zu Eurer Tagung und 25ten Jahres-Fe
berufshaber freundschaftlich eingeladen. Ich denke Euch!
Wie gerne wäre ich zu Euch gekommen! Aber der
im 88ten Lebensjahr. Stunden faltenen Altars
Verpflichtungen nur einen Platz zurück. Es kann nicht
mehr!

Um aber doch unter Euch zu sein, habe ich geschrieben
einige Festworte die ich bei freiem Befinden gerne unter
Euch gesprochen hätte. Lasst sie Euch vorlesen!

(auf Rotsch:)

Wisst Ihr Alle, liebe Freunde der Sennenhunde, dass
Ihr hier auf dem Boden und in Berg und Tal der leider
verstorbenen grossen Tierfreunde lebt, der:

zuerst die Hundeausstellung 1892 wieder auf Langenthal,
und 1904 in Bern zur Ausstellung brachte und dann viele
Jahre wohlgereifte Zuchtart derselben wurde?

dann 1912 Hundeausstellung hielt und 1913 in Langenthal
ausstellte - zum letzten mal.

und dass er derjenige war, der den Grossen Schweizer-
Sennenhund vom Verschwinden gerettet hat!

der war Franz Schertenleib auf Rotsch! Denkt hieran!

Wie der gewesen?:

Noch 1850 war der Grosse Schweizer Sennenhund durch die ganze
Schweiz verbreitet. Dann wurde er rasch durch eingeführte
Hunde von berühmten Rassen und mit Stammbäumen
verdrängt - er, der „ganz gewöhnliche Metzgerhund, ohne
Abstammung und ohne Rassenamen". Man übersah dass
gerade der Umstand, dass man ihn gerade so überall traf,
bewies, dass die Tiere eine ausgezeichnete bodenständige,
heimatliche alte Rasse von bestem sicherem Instinkt und bestem
Diensteifer waren. Schon 1880 war er fast ganz
verschwunden.

2.

Der, auf einer Reise, traf unsren Freund Eberhardsleib in „Schönbrunn" zwischen Schwarzenburg und Guggisberg einen prächtigen Hund wie wir ihn noch nie gesehen hatten. Fuchs wie der Durchschlag, aber ganz Bär und Bärenbeißer und grösser. Eberhardsleib war ganz eingenommen von dem Tier. Er pfiff es und brachte es im Sept. 1908 mit seinem Wagen in den Richtung: Er wußte wissen, ob der etwas besonderes sei, er erwartete seine Bemerkung sofort nur. Ich, der Richter, streichte den Hund sonnige um. dann sagte ich freudig auf: „Der haben Sie für den verlorenen ge" glaubten großen Klub wiedergefunden!! Den großen Schweizerbernhund! Und mit dieser Be" nennung habe ich ihn mit Freuden und Vater" gnügen vorzüglich und 1.-Preis! Vielleicht ist diese Rasse noch zu retten!

Mit diesem Worten war die Rasse gerettet und die S. K. G. die Züchterin. „Bello von Schwyzgut" wurde auf seine Ringer.

Lord pfiffe, und sprang, und bewegte Eberhardsleib, der seiner auf weitere große Schweizer Bernhunde, so Barry für seinen Zuchf, die Belline für seinen Caesar und auf einige. die Patrizierin zur Grundlage eines ganzen Volkes waren jetzt beisammen! Glück auf, wiederholt Zuf!

Natürlich durften wir nicht beschreiben schweigen, wenn wir die alte Rasse retten wollten! Zuerst wurde sie in Richterkreisen besprochen und zu meinem Aufsehen der noch vorhandenen Rasse aufgemuntert, dann rief" gestellt, etc. An einer folgenden Ausstellung wurden 4, dann 8, dann 10 „Große Schweizer" vorgeführt. Unser hoher Präsident schätzte die Zahl der jetzt vor" handenen auf gegen 300.

Wir jetzt Vorstehenden oder Altvorgängerlichen hatten aber 28 Jahre unsere Rasse wieder gefunden und wahrend. Die Alle haben nun 1/4 Jahrhundert nie ihr Prüfung, Beziehung und praktische Haltung vollzogen, und sie gehoben. Ihnen Allen und besonders den Leitern unseres Klubs, gilt mein herzlicher Dank! — und zugleich die Bitte: Bleiben Sie weiterhin unserer Rasse und unserem Klub treu, treu wie ein großer Bernhund!

1. Mai 1936.

Albert Heim

Pictured is the honorary membership card of Prof.Heim it was given on 10-31-1930.
The signature is from J.Jaussi, then president of the club.
Jaussi was the third registered member in 1911. He resided in Olten, kennel "Born".

Der Club für grosse Schweizer-Sennenhunde

ernennt hiemit

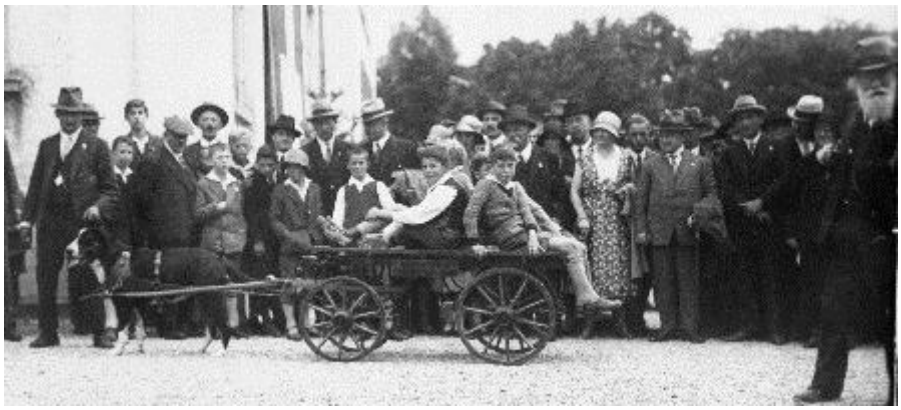
Hr. Dr. A. Heim alt Professor Zürich

zu seinem Ehren Mitglied.

Olten, den 31. Okt. 1930

Der Aktuar: Der Präsident:

Historical photo: Prof. Heim is on right



THE OLD STONE HOUSE.

MY FARM IN SWITZERLAND.

JUNE 10.—Went out to the farm—a stiff walk of several miles.

Wondered all the way out why my American friends do not do as M—— does, why they do not stop trying to get rich, and why they do not study economy and contentment more.

I have read somewhere that America is twenty-eight hundred millions of dollars poorer than it was five short years ago, and that millions and millions of American capital is invested provisionally only. Why do not hundreds of these men, who have saved wrecks from their fortunes, or who have got a little money, by much risk and hard work, stop?

Why do not they do what M—— does? I presume most of them think they can not afford it—can not stop on twenty thousand dollars. M—— did, and lives well, and risks nothing.

I am going to note down, here and there, *how* he does it, only to convince myself that a man who has twenty thousand dollars has enough.

M—— was a sort of a city man—bought and sold silks; but markets cutting up all sorts of capers, he stopped silk, and bought a farm—scarcely a farm either—only ten acres; but that is two acres above the average-sized farm in the canton. Four acres of M——'s farm are in grapes, three acres in grass and fruit trees, and the rest in garden ground. The whole cost him fifteen thousand dollars, with a big stone house included. This was cheap, but the house, though very big, is a little out of style, and was thrown in, as it were. M—— made some changes, at small expense, and the house looks half as fine now as a castle. He rented the upper floors for a time, and that almost paid for the alterations.

He has, besides his farm and its equipments, five thousand dollars in bonds of the state. Interest is low, but the principal is secure. This difference in interest is usually, I believe, an insurance on security. As grape land here is valued at one thousand six hundred dollars an acre, and is reckoned to produce twenty per cent. on the investment, M——'s grapes alone will bring him, next October, one thousand two hundred dollars cash. In-

terest on bonds will add two hundred and fifty dollars to it.

I call M——'s farm *my farm* so often, I believe half my American friends who visit me in town really think I am in the business, and imagine they see the hay seeds in my hair.

June 15.—The first grass cutting is over. It is a moist climate here, and grass grows early. Some of the neighbors cut grass on May-day. There are four mowings a year. Now has commenced that awful nuisance about Swiss farming, the *fertilizing*. Such outrageous and constant smells crossing every field and garden, and penetrating every house, never were conceived outside of Switzerland. The manure is put on in liquid form, and everybody passing within a mile holds his nose and stops breathing. On this one subject the Swiss are crazy. On all others they pass. It is humiliating to see women compelled to carry the liquid manure to the fields in great wooden vessels on their backs.

The pear-trees are in full blossom, and the meadows are full of them. Growing the orchards in grass is not thought detrimental, and M—— does just as his neighbors do in almost everything. He is not much of a farmer himself, but he employs a man who *is*, pays fifteen dollars a month, with board, and hires additional help here and there as is needed. He must pay these additional hands fifty cents a day, and give them two bottles of wine each and a little bread for lunch every morning at nine and afternoon at four. They board at home. When he hires a woman, he pays her thirty cents a day and board.

M—— keeps two cows, and they work at the wagon enough to pay for keeping them, even if he had to buy the feed, which he now raises. It seems impossible that the milk and butter should be quite so good when the cows work, but the farmers all say, "*Es macht nichts.*"

The evening milk is skimmed and mixed with the unskimmed morning's milk, and is sold at four cents a litre. The evening cream is made into butter, and M—— sells about a hundred dollars' worth of milk and butter in the year. He feeds these cows on grass and yellow beets, which he grows himself, and a little bran.

Like his neighbors, he keeps his cows most of the time chained up in low, unventilated stone stalls, where the heat in summer is fearful. The only reason for this eternal roasting of the cows that I hear is that it saves food. It may be. It seems inhuman treatment, however.

Milk peddlers, with their dog-carts, call at the farm-houses every morning, and whenever M—— wishes to he can dispose of a part of his mixed skimmed and unskimmed milk.

June 20.—The blossoms are going, and the vineyards are full of men and women digging up the ground with great hoes with prongs like pitchforks. There could be no greater scandal here than weeds in a vineyard. There are no fences usually, and so there is no getting out of order of that kind. The stone walls encircling some of the little farms and vineyards last centuries without repair.

Some of the vineyards near my farm are eight hundred years old. It seems impossible. The great beam, made of a whole oak-tree, in M——'s wine-press bears the date of the sixteenth century. How many grapes that old beam has pressed into wine in its centuries!

The big house is as old as the wine-press. It has a vaulted cellar twenty-five feet high, and rows of wine-casks stand there thirty feet in circumference. The best rooms in the house are wainscoted in old oak. This was a monks' cloister once.

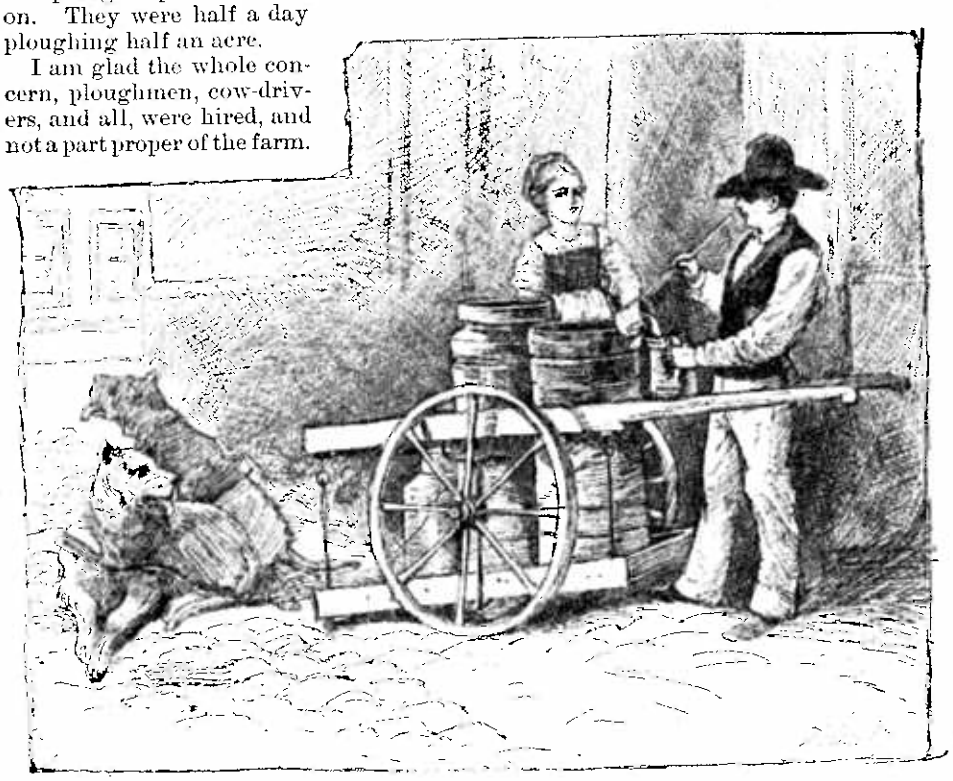
What merry old times they had in these oaken rooms, with the big wine-press in the barn!

The stone walls of the house are five feet thick. It would cost a fortune to build such a house now. My friend got it for a song, as it were.

June 30.—I have wondered if there are such awkward ways of doing things outside of Egypt as are practiced here. The farming implements would be laughable if they were not monstrous. Tubal-Cain certainly made better-formed scythes than are used here. The axes are simply long sharp wedges with a hole near the top, and a short, straight stick in the hole for a handle. Hay forks are big and awkward, and twice as heavy as our stable forks. Grain is oftener threshed with the old-fashioned flail than otherwise. I wonder they do not tramp it out with oxen. It would be a *slower* process, and how to be slow is made a special study here. The ploughs are the climax of agricultural monstrosities. They are great cumbersome things, made almost wholly of wood, with the beam mounted on two wooden wheels big enough for coal carts.

My friend used just such a plough yesterday on our farm. I half deny ownership now, when I think of it. It was pulled by six cows. Two men were driving the cows, and two men were holding the plough up. I followed and looked on. They were half a day ploughing half an acre.

I am glad the whole concern, ploughmen, cow-drivers, and all, were hired, and not a part proper of the farm.



THE MILKMAN.

I sat on a stone wall for half an hour and reflected whether it were possible Americans could not make small special farming profitable, with their soil and complete implements for farming, in the face of the fact that these people not only make a living, but save money, on a poor soil, and with the old-fashioned tools of Egypt to work it.

I am certain the whole secret lies in economy; in the saving of a hundred little things that shall outbalance even the waste of these awkward implements and these slow methods. There will not a blade of grass be seen among the vines here, nor a weed on the farm. There will not be a twig of wood left to rot, or a potato undug. A gentleman's private garden could not be cleaner or better kept than is the whole farm in Switzerland, and cultivation, such as is bestowed only on hot-houses in America, is common here to every farm. Not one foot of ground is left uncared for. It may take a good deal of time, with such slow hands, to do it, but it is done. Not a chip, not a straw, is wasted. "We put this little thing and that little thing together," said my friend, "and at the end of the year it makes a good deal." One can not afford waste or bad farming on land at five or six or ten hundred dollars an acre and more.

1st July.—The weather is getting warm. We want to go out on the lake-side somewhere. M—— offers me a floor of his wainscoted rooms at forty dollars a month. Why should we not go? The furniture in the rooms is not the latest Paris pattern, but, like the house, it is old and strong. We will go out, and then the farm will seem mine more than ever.

What idyllic farming this is—setting the work aside: *that* the hands must do, if my friend does not. The ten acres are beautifully situated. Four acres of vines slope down toward a beautiful lake; be-

low this a strip of meadow washed by the blue water. Back of the house, and above it, more vines; and farther up, a dark forest of pines. To the right, in the distance, a white city; to the left, the snow-capped Glornisch Alps. The house is surrounded by beautiful shrubs, shade trees, and banks of flowers. In front is a long terrace with an awning of broad-armed castanea-trees, and to the left of this a white and narrow road, lined with evergreens, mountain-ash, and acacia-trees, curves up to the house.

Here it is that my friend lives, and farms, and has given up planning to be rich.

July 10.—We are snugly settled on "my farm." I am still anxious to see if M—— really does make more than a bare living on his farm. He tells me of some neighbors who have done well at it, and of hundreds of Frenchmen who wouldn't change that sort of life to be millionaires. I don't wonder. If my friend can just pay expenses, live well, and keep out of debt, he ought to be happy in a home like this. Just now there is not much coming in, and I notice my friend wishes his interest were sent to him to help pay the hands. He is thinking about the *phylloxera*, too. "If that monster were to come, it would play the deuce with all of us," he exclaims, occasionally. We will all pray it may never come. In fact, if it does not stop coming, it will make desert places of the fairest regions of the earth.

The bank had to be drawn on to meet the taxes. The farm is valued at fifteen thousand dollars, and the taxes amount to two hundred dollars. The worms ate up the cabbage—a thousand heads, worth from five to ten cents each; and one of the cows got crippled, and had to be killed. It will cost one hundred and twenty-five dollars to replace her. Many little items of income that my friend had counted on have already disappeared in fine dust. The season was wet, and many things failed. The big onion bed, however, has been sold, and will bring one hundred dollars, and the potatoes that my friend can spare are estimated at another hundred dollars. If apples and pears only turn out well—*but they will not.*

My friend works at pruning and other light farm duty about half the time, just enough for healthful exercise, and to enable him to keep track of things. His hired hands would do better were he to work more; but then he would be a common farm hand himself, and that he will not. He promises the gardener a cask of wine extra to push things a little, and they are pushed.

Farming out here is not so wonderfully different from living in town. We lack no conveniences. The little steamer passes our station a dozen times a day, and the donkey express, with the dwarf driver, every evening.

July 20.—There is one good thing about farming here. Everything grown can be sold within twenty-four hours, at high price, for cash. On the other hand, land is so dreadfully dear, the investment must be large to produce anything; and competition is lively here too. In a population of two hundred and fifty thousand in the canton, there are thirty-six thousand holders of little farms averaging eight acres apiece. As nearly all the grain used in the country is imported, these thousands of little farms are devoted almost exclusively to producing garden vegetables, wine, and fruit. After all, has the Swiss or the Frenchman much advantage over the American in this managing small places? Land here ranges from five hundred to sixteen hundred dollars an acre. What is land worth six to ten miles from towns under a hundred thousand population in the United States? What district of the same population in the United States as this contains as many people engaged in small farming? It is not a question of acres, but of cultivation, and of amounts produced—of pounds, and bushels, and hundredweights.

One question, anyway, is settled here, viz., it pays better to cultivate tiny little farms *well* than to *half-cultivate* hundreds of broad acres. Suppose that our American farmers were to *sell* one-half their land, and *cultivate* the rest?

I wonder why the American agricultural colleges are not better supported? Every American thinks himself capable of farming. "Don't need to know anything to farm in America." This sentiment lowers the calling with them. In Europe, farming is a science. Farmers know the chemistry of things, and the philosophy of some things too.

M—— tells me his greatest pleasure is to study farm books evenings; says he never read a book on drainage, bee-culture, apple-growing, crop rotation, ferti-

lizing, vine-culture, etc., that did not repay him its price a hundredfold. I find there are fewer of these books in Europe than in America. They are *studied* here, however. There, they are not: they are only *bought*. That is the difference. Scientific and practical farming are combined here. There, science is laughed at. Anybody may farm, provided he is not a downright idiot. Perhaps this is one reason why a great many persons with means and culture keep out of farming. The calling is lowered by incompetents. However, this will all change as population increases and land grows dearer. Then men who will not or can not farm well will have to throw up the sponge and step out. Careless and unscientific farming may do on very cheap land. It would mean bankruptcy on land at the prices paid here.

M—— asks me why Americans do not encourage grape-planting and wine-making more, as it is so profitable. I hardly know what to answer. I finally say, laughing, perhaps it is because they like bad whiskey better than wholesome wine. This is, in truth, the reputation we have the world over. I continue to explain to M—— that probably the real reason is to be found in the fact that drunkenness has alarmed Americans, and that the radical reformers and prohibitionists refuse to see any difference between pure wines in moderation and extravagant use of alcohol. They want to "go to the root," they say, and probably will by their zeal defeat their own wishes. M—— laughed very heartily when I told him that in some towns of the United States it was neither lawful nor respectable to drink beer on the Sabbath-day, or any other day. Maintaining this to be a sober fact, injured my character for veracity with my friend, I am afraid.

THE DONKEY EXPRESS.

M—— keeps one good horse, and a little closed carriage that contains seats for four, and can be opened out like a barouche for fair weather. It is very convenient. The whole family drove into town to the circus last night. M—— is in town just enough to enjoy hugely everything he sees there.

Mrs. M—— will go to the mountains next week to make a cure. There is nothing particularly wrong with her, but it is the fashion here to make a "cure" every summer. She will stay a month.

Her husband, though out-of-doors half his life, will also go and make a cure of a couple of weeks.

In the winter, too, they will go for a couple of weeks to Paris, but be back for Christmas. It would be an unpardonable sin not to be with one's family on Christmas. And then they must be at home to pay the bills on New-Year. All bills are presented during the last week of the year. M—— tells me he does not have half the anxieties now he had when he bought and sold silk, and yet does not work half as hard. He sleeps better, and has better health. Formerly a bad rumor on the Bourse kept him awake till midnight. Now he sleeps sweetly while his vines are growing. He has few risks. If the vines, and the bees, and the onions, and apples, and grass, *all* fail, he still has his *farm* safe. That can not fail, or burn up, or run away, or be stolen.

I find he works more than I thought he did. He is up with the swallows, and that is what makes his cheeks so red. Two half-days in the week, though, he spends among the reading-rooms and libraries in town, and then strangers would almost suppose him a gentleman of infinite leisure. M——associates in town with bankers and merchants and solid men generally. He is considered a solid man himself. He is a director in the village schools, and is town president occasionally—not to be in public life, but that occupying such posts is a duty of the competent citizen here. They must not be sought.

M—— has a boy ten, and a girl eleven years old. They both attend the higher schools in town, and go in every morning on the steamer. The boy wants to be a teacher of chemistry, he says, and he may be it. The girl—her destiny is probably to get married. Both are bright, comfortably dressed little people. It costs M—— for their clothing and schooling about two hundred dollars per year.

Mrs. M—— keeps a stout maid-of-all-work at one dollar per week, and has a seamstress come to the house twice or thrice a year for a fortnight, paying her forty cents a day and board. Annely, the Waschfrau, comes monthly usually, and works three or four days, at forty cents a day. It is a custom here to wash but two or three times a year, but Mrs. M—— evades it so far as to do the thing monthly. The yards then do not look so much like an army hospital as do those of the neighbors, with their forty sheets and ninety shirts whitening the whole farm.

Annely is a character. She is a raging Methodist, in a land where Methodists are rare. She is fifty years old, not very pretty, works like a slave, and gives every single penny of her savings to the poor. For thirty years, good old Annely has been considered the saintliest, best person in the neighborhood. She can do more work, too, and do it better, than any two men or four women I know of. Honor to Annely. Many and many a year ago, when Annely was a young village belle, it may be, the tempter came. Annely's little baby is a big boy now, and may never ask who was his father. But of his mother—ah! it's enough only to say, "I am Annely's boy," and the good wishes of everybody follow him. Is it a wonder that good people sometimes slip extra francs into the amount of Annely's washing wages? The world is better than it seems.

August 10.—Everybody is at the haying, men and women, boys and girls—twice as many, too, as there is any use for. Even the cook is out, rake in hand, and Mrs. M—— and the children look on, and help just a little. About once an hour all hands stop and go under an apple-tree, drink cider or cheap wine for twenty minutes, and then slowly proceed with the windrows. I have seen more hay put in the barn by three men in an afternoon in America than all this dozen of picnickers will get in to-day. It's fun, nevertheless. The only wonder is, how it pays to devote so much time and cider and wine and coarse bread to the few small wagon-loads they will harvest. Hay is very dear, however.

Of wheat, there is almost none—only just patches enough of it to make the green fields picturesque. Switzerland

IN HAYING-TIME.

imports nearly all of her breadstuffs, and so there is no wheat harvest, except as the men and women cut the little patches mentioned with hand-sickles.

M—— was telling me to-day that, with all the slow way of doing things, grass-growing is very profitable, and that there can be more money made with grass, with dairies, with pear-growing, and even with vegetables, than with grapes. He prefers grapes, however, as he thinks it a "nicer" kind of farming. Besides, if he can not sell his wine this year, it is all the better and the dearer next. It bears better interest by keeping than his five per cent. bonds do.

Saw them bringing some hay over the lake in boats. It was a pretty scene, just in the twilight. Everything about farm life on the Continent seems picturesque. They seem to study novel ways of doing things, and almost every hut, or house, or barn, or bridge, seems built with an eye to pretty effect. In America this is usually left out of the undertaking entirely. A correspondent of a Berlin paper wrote once from Cincinnati: "When you have seen one town in America, you have seen all: one farm, all farms; one village, all villages. They are just alike. Only the people differ, and they very little."

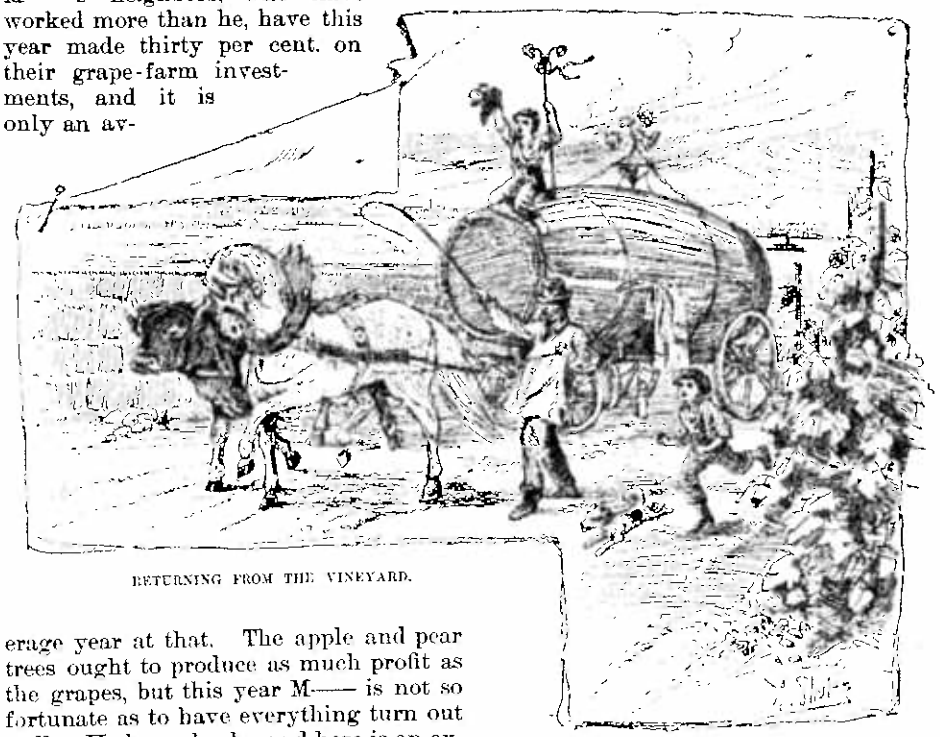
October 1.—The last grass is being mown, and the pears are being taken from the trees. It is the fourth mowing.

M—— has some seventy-five pear-trees crowded into his little farm, and a few apples. He will have about what apples the family can use, but none to sell. Both apples and pears have done poorly. Still, he will make the pears into cider, and will sell it before Christmas for about two hundred dollars. The grass under the trees is good, and he will have to buy little or no hay for his horse and two cows this winter.

October 10.—A half-dozen neighbors are on the farm, and the grape-cutting has commenced. There is any amount of sport on the occasion. As soon as the cutting is done, there will be a party and a dance in the barn. We are invited to take part, and shall certainly do so. Some of the peasants will come masked, and there will be no sleeping that night within a mile of "my farm." A few grapes have been cut by neighbors already, and the wagons go by with the queer long

casks on top filled with new wine. The bung-holes of the casks are filled with bouquets of roses—a gift to Bacchus. I saw one wine wagon with a nearly naked little boy astride the cask, a Bacchus himself, with coal-black eyes and laughing locks.

M—— now calculates on the profits of the year's farming. His four acres of grapes have produced twenty saum each of decent Swiss wine; value by spring will be fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents per saum, or about one thousand two hundred and twenty dollars, equalling twenty per cent. on the investment, counting the grape land to be worth one thousand six hundred dollars per acre. Some of M——'s neighbors, who have worked more than he, have this year made thirty per cent. on their grape-farm investments, and it is only an average year at that. The apple and pear trees ought to produce as much profit as the grapes, but this year M—— is not so fortunate as to have everything turn out well. He keeps books, and here is an extract from the last page:



RETURNING FROM THE VINEYARD.

INCOME.

Onions	$100
Pears	200
Grapes	1220
Milk sold	100
Honey	100
Potatoes	100
Interest on bonds—$5000—at 5 per cent.	250
Rent of rooms to me, $140, not estimated.	
Total income	$2070

EXPENSES.

Taxes	$200
Servant	60
Gardener	180
Extra help—washer-woman, seamstress, and extra hand occasionally	100
Schooling and clothing of the two children	200
Charity	50
Excursions	100
Clothing of two persons	200
Groceries	50
Meat and bread	200
Books, amusements, etc.	50
Total expenses	$1390
Total income	$2070
Total expenses	1390
Difference	$680

The clear profit on M——'s investment of $20,000, then, is $680 in cash, plus all the expenses of a family of four persons. These expenses were, deducting the items that came of working the farm (say $400), $990. Add this to the $680 clear gain, and the earnings of the $20,000 may be set down at $1670, or nearly thirteen per cent.

M—— says he never did much better than this when in business, when the risks and the anxieties were unspeakably

greater. As to the health, and pleasure, and all that, to be obtained in the two callings, I am sure nobody would ever think of comparing them.

I am glad I kept this diary. I have now convinced myself of what I had often been told, viz., that a man who has as nice a little sum of money as twenty thousand dollars saved can be happier and safer in the world, working a bit of land, than by remaining in the risky whirlpool of what is called "business."

ART-EMBROIDERY.

"This bright art
Did zealous Europe learn of pagan hands,
While she assay'd with rage of holy war
To desolate their fields; but old the skill:
Long were the Phrygians' pict'ring looms renowned;
Tyre also, wealthy seat of art, excell'd,
And elder Sidon, in the historic web."—DYER.

EMBROIDERY, though properly considered a comparatively unimportant sister art of painting, is, perhaps, the oldest of the fine arts. Its origin is various in various nations, and it is one of the few arts practiced, more or less imperfectly, by all savage tribes, from time immemorial, in one form or other, according to the materials available, and the religions and customs obtaining. At various periods of the world's history, and in many localities, embroidery has reached great perfection, and has been made "the vehicle of higher powers than its own" for all uses, from mere personal adornment to the expression of religious thought. Technically speaking, the palm must be awarded to the Chinese, the Japanese, the Hindoos, the Persians, and the Turks; and as far as Europe is concerned, the practice of embroidery is coeval with the first intercourse with these nations, especially the Persians and Turks, though it is difficult to determine how great an influence the Egyptians exercised in this respect over the Greeks and Romans, and also from what source the Egyptian embroideries were derived. However, the modern interest in embroidery is not archæological, and this glance at that phase of the subject is sufficient.

The present revival of interest in embroidery seems likely to be more permanent than any that has preceded it, because it is now something more than a passing fashion in dress, as was the case in England in 1846, when London alone employed two thousand pair of hands in decorating every conceivable article of dress worn by ladies of fashion. Now it is her own handiwork, the hours of patient stitching, the choice of materials and colors, and the realization of an artistic thought, that the lady of fashion is proud of, not, as formerly, the money that these cost. She has now a real appreciation of the beauty of her India shawl, with its seven hundred stitches to the square inch, and other features that make her treasures of old lace so valuable. The mere filling in of worsted-work is superseded by an occupation that requires thought, knowledge, taste, and skill; the promised slippers or sofa cushion are no longer so much to be dreaded, and even the afghan, chair back, and chauffe-pied are assuming artistic importance—things that can not only be tolerated for the sake of association, but which we can conscientiously admire, and be thankful for. Of course many things are embroidered which should be perfectly plain, if, indeed, as in the case of a valance for a mantel, they should exist at all; but this lack of discrimination is incident to all beginnings, and we may feel certain that the enthusiasm which has carried the mantel valance to completion will lead to a degree of acquirement that will acknowledge its incongruity, and by that time the heat and soot of the fire will have rendered it unsightly enough to be consigned to the attic, among the useless accumulations of the past.

If anything permanent and valuable is to result from the present enthusiasm for art-needlework, it will be the achievement of those who are obliged to find a market for their labors. These will soon discover that while a knowledge of the South Kensington crewel-work is essential, it is a small beginning, that all methods and all materials are available, and that if the effect aimed at can not be realized by known processes, invention must supply the means. The finest modern embroideries I have seen were executed by ladies who had received no special instruction, but who were endowed with the rare quality of mind which accepts the value of precedent as a basis for in-

The ALPENHORN

The Official Magazine of the
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

February 1987
Special Issue

1937

1987

50th Anniversary of Bernese Mountain Dogs in America

50th Anniversary of Bernese Mountain Dogs in America 1937 to 1987

It seemed to begin so simply. In the May 1, 1937, Issue of the American Kennel Gazette there was a brief notice: "New Breed Admitted to Stud Book. Bernese Mountain Dog." There followed the newly accepted "Standard of Perfection" for the breed, which was admitted to the Working Group.

Recognition of the Bernese Mountain Dog by the American Kennel Club actually took place at the meeting of April 13, 1937. There were, we may be sure, many events, discussions, meetings, and deliberations leading up to this momentous recognition. The breed had, of course, been recognized and promoted in its Swiss homeland for many decades prior to this recognition of Its status by the American Kennel Club. Active promotion of the breed by Mrs. L. Egg-Leach of England and Switzerland and by the American fancier Glen Shadow were among these events.

On the occasion of the 50th, "Golden," Anniversary of the recognition of the Bernese Mountain Dog in America, this issue of the newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America is devoted to a retrospective view of these dogs. Deciphering their history must be based on a number of sources: archaeological records give us some clues about Swiss dogs; works of art can be used to document how these farmers' dogs developed; the history of the breed since its initial promotion by Swiss dog fanciers, starting in 1892, is known from writings of Professor Albert Heim and other early fanciers. The history of these dogs in America can be told from records of the American Kennel Club and, since its founding in 1968, from those of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America.

Thanks are due to Mary Alice Eschweiler, Chairman of the Records Committee, for providing valuable information from the Club's archives; to Robert and Brenda Abrams and Dora Gruber for help with the photographs; to Esther Mueller for providing background information on the breed; to Deborah Godfrey and Elizabeth Hill for arranging the computer programs that were used In this Issue; to Bill and Mary Jo Thomson for critical reading of the manuscript; and to Roberta Vesley and the Library of the American Kennel Club for providing information from stud books and registers. Some of the information here appeared in the first (1968-1972) issue of the Yearbooks of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America. The cover features (top) Fridy v. Haslenbach (A-156,753), first Bernese to be registered by the AKC in 1937, and Ch. Taliesin Raclette d'Aldo (WF169978), a representative of the breed today.

--Mary R. Dawson

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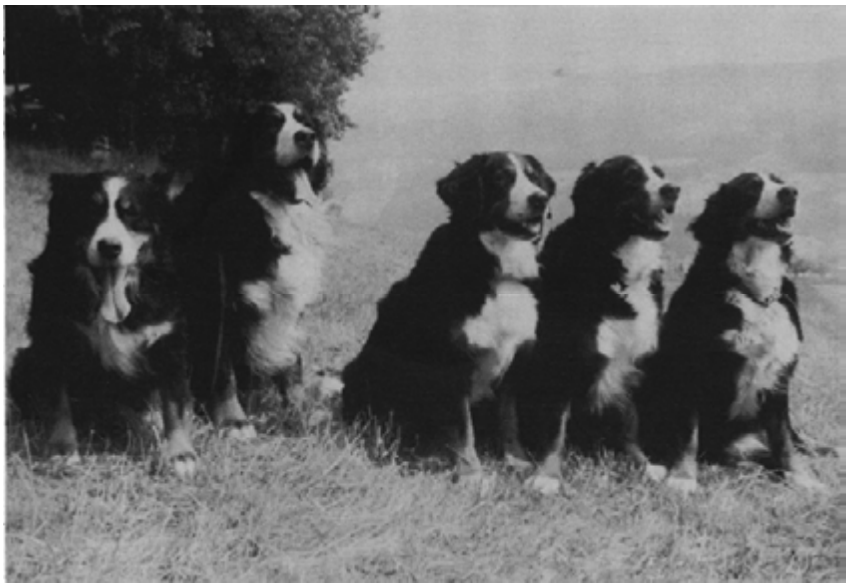
Figure 1. A group of modern Bernese Mountain Dogs in Switzerland. Dürsrüti dogs, left to right, Quela, Wacho, Bunta, Senta, and Bunta v. Mariland.



PART 1. THE FARM DOGS OF SWITZERLAND

As for many modern purebred dogs, and especially for those stemming from association with farming, the early history of the Bernese Mountain Dog (Berner Sennenhund) is clouded in obscurity. Until purebreeding started, which in the case of our breed occurred around the end of the 19th century, utility ruled in breeding dogs. Farmers wanted dogs that were useful. Apparently our dogs stem from all purpose farmers' dogs that were versatile, being capable of serving as watchdogs around the farmstead as well as drovers, workers and companions for the alpine herdsmen (Sennen), and cart dogs.

Thus, in tracing the prehistory of our breed we must look to varied sources that may tell something in general about the development of dogs in Switzerland and in particular about "farmers' dogs."

The area that is now Switzerland has a long claim to the association between man and dog. In the archaeological sites of the Swiss "lake dwellers" (Pfahlbauern), who inhabited part of central Switzerland in Neolithic times, around 2000 to 3000 BC, bones of small to medium sized dogs are present. Many of the bones represent old individuals. Other domestic animals of these Neolithic farmers also tended to be small. Size indicates that selective breeding for some characters was being practiced by these early herdsmen. Later Neolithic sites contain remains of larger dogs, as do some from Celtic people in the Iron Age. Better known is the record of the Romans, who came north across the Alps during the first century BC. The Romans came intending to provision their troops and to stay, for they brought with them herds of cattle and other livestock. It is very likely that droving dogs were used in controlling these herds. The Roman site of Vindonissa, dating from the first century AD, contains bones of a dog. According to the Swiss anatomist Theodore Studer, who studied the remains around 1901, the skull is about the size of that of a Bernese farmers' dog. This evidence has been incorrectly used to show that Bernese Mountain Dogs lived at the time of the Romans, whereas what it does show is simply that large dogs were present in the Roman's state of Helvetia. Switzerland north of the Alps was an active crossroads for movement of tribes and invaders, and increasing pressures from Germanic tribes finally led to the fall of the Romans in Helvetia. Surely these invading "barbarians" had dogs for varied purposes and of varied sizes and appearances, but the archaeological record is not extensive.

Into and through the Middle Ages the written record dealing with farmers' dogs in Switzerland is poor. It is known that in the 13th century the nobles in Switzerland prized their hunting dogs - but allowed no mixing of these treasured creatures with the lowly farmers' dogs. Meanwhile, farmers continued using utility as the highest requisite for a dog. Some regional development of different strains probably occurred in relatively isolated valleys.

Both Albert Heim, an early promoter of Swiss farmers' dogs, and later Hans Räber, editor of Hundesport, the official publication of the Swiss Kennel Club, turned to old paintings in attempts to trace the background of these dogs. Most paintings were done of the lap dogs and hunting companions of the rich and noble, but a few clues to the background of the Sennenhunde were found. One painting dating to 1651 by the Dutch painter Paulus Potter shows a large tricolored dog that could easily be a Bernese Mountain Dog.

Figure 2. Detail from a painting by Potter (1651) showing a dog resembling the Bernese of today (from Räber, 1984)

Presence of a Swiss farm dog in Holland could be explained, for herds of cows, and probably the dogs that drove the herds, were items of commerce between the farmers of Switzerland and the Netherlands. Later (ca. 1773) paintings by the Swiss painter Freudenberg show farm scenes with large tricolored dogs, again probably related to the Bärris and Blässis of today.

Up until and through this time emphasis in dog breeding continued to be utility. It wasn't until dog fanciers entered the picture, around the middle of the 19th century, that breeding programs were developed that would preserve the qualities of the old breeds. Once kennel clubs started, stud books closed, and pedigrees remained "pure", breeds as they are recognized today made their appearance. For the Bernese Mountain Dog this event in their development can be traced to Switzerland in the 1890s.

PART 2. THE DÜRRBÄCHLERS

In the latter part of the 19th century many Swiss dog fanciers began importing foreign breeds. The only Swiss breed that was popular was the Saint Bernard. The local dogs, known as farmers' dogs, cheese factory dogs, Gelbbäckler ("Yellow Cheeks"), or Vieräuger ("Four Eyes", in reference to the spots over the eyes) were largely forgotten. But a few fanciers remembered the old local dogs and decided to do all they could to preserve and promote them. Notable among these was Franz Schertenleib of Burgdorf near Bern, who in 1892 went to look for a certain type of dog that his father had told about. In the Dürrbach region south of Bern he found a dog that old timers in Burgdorf recognized as a Gelbbäckler. Subsequently Schertenleib returned to the Dürrbach region and bought more dogs, and then searched for other individuals in the remote farm regions of the Canton of Bern. These are the dogs that led to the Bernese Mountain Dog.

Soon Schertenleib was joined in his efforts by other fanciers and was also assisted by Professor Albert Heim, a noted geologist as well as a dog fancier. The dogs were called Dürrbächlers, after their native area.

Figure 3. Franz Schertenleib, who searched the Dürrbach area for dogs in 1892 (photo from Herr Iseli).

In 1899 Mr. Probst drew attention to the Dürrbächlers in the publication Centralblatt. Later, in 1904, he and a photographer, Mr. Deppeler, arranged an experimental class for these dogs at the International Swiss Kennel Club show in Bern. Six dogs and one bitch were entered. Four of these seven were registered by the Swiss Kennel Club in 1905 (Phylax, no. 2698; Prinz, no. 2699; Ringgi, no. 2700; and Belline, no. 2701). Eight additional dogs were registered in 1908. For about ten years dogs of unknown parentage were accepted for registration by the Swiss Kennel Club, following their approval by one of three experts (Schertenleib, Mumenthaler, Scheidegger).
Meanwhile, the fanciers formed the Schweizerischer Dürrbach-Club in 1907, with headquarters in Burgdorf. Charter members were: Messrs. Mumenthaler (president), Schafroth, Gunther, Heiniger, Schertenleib, Haldimann, Ritz, Gsteiger, Luthi, Scheidegger, Bracher. In 1908 the group changed its name at the suggestion of Professor Heim, who proposed the name Berner Sennenhund, noting that the breed really originated in the entire Canton of Bern, whereas Dürrbach was only a small region that served as a refugium for the dogs when other breeds were becoming popular. Thus was born the Berner-Sennenhund Klub (later the Schweizerische Klub für Berner Sennenhunde). A Senn or Senner is an Alpine herdsman, so the literal translation of Berner Sennenhund would be "Bernese Alpine Herdsman's Dog."

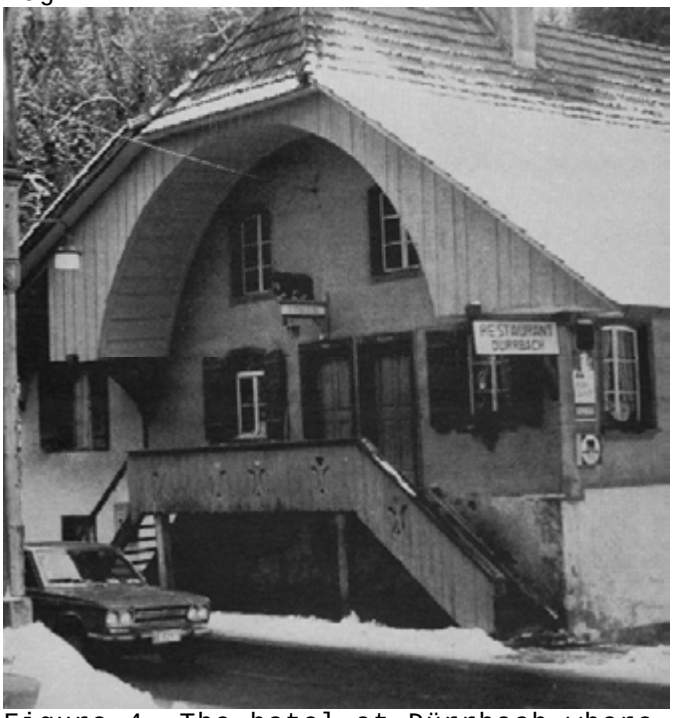


Figure 4. The hotel at Dürrbach where early Dürrbächler fanciers gathered (photo by Erwin Munter, Longstorf).

Both the Club and the breed grew well. A Specialty Show was held in 1910 in Burgdorf, at which all with a Bernese type of dog were invited to exhibit. One hundred and seven dogs were shown to judge Professor Heim, who found that three-quarters of them were worthy representatives and good for breeding. Many of these dogs, of course, were of unknown pedigree, but they were accepted on the basis of type. There was still considerable variation in some features, and, according to one authority (Rittmeister v. Stephanitz, Der deutsche Scahäferhund, January, 1921), some early Berners even had a red or yellow-red ground color instead of black.

By 1911 the Swiss Bernese club had forty members. As these native dogs became known in their homeland, their popularity increased. By 1922 58 were entered in the Swiss Kennel Club Registry; this grew to 129 in 1939, just after the breed was recognized in America, and 336 in 1948. In that same year, 1948, although the stud book had been closed for some time, the possibility of bringing fresh blood into the breed was discussed. It is not clear whether this was done deliberately or as an accident. The Berner Sennenhund bitch Christine v. Lux had seven puppies sired by the Newfoundland Pluto v. Erlengut. All the puppies looked like Newfoundlands with small white markings on the feet. One female and three males were kept. The female was mated with the Berner Sennenhund Aldo v. Tieffurt and had a litter of eight: one male and one female resembled Berners but the male had no white on the hind feet; one male and one female were Berners but lacked a blaze; two males were black with white toes, white spots on the chin, and a white spot on the chest; two, stillborn, had irregular blazes. One of the females, Christine, was mated with the Berner Osi v. Allenluften. The five resulting puppies had all the markings of a Berner but only two, Alex and Bella, survived. Of these, the male, Alex v. Angstorf became very important as a stud dog and champion. He sired 51 litters, from which no all black dogs appeared. The experimental cross breeding was counted as a success, and indeed Alex v. Angstorf can be found in the pedigree of many of the dogs of today.

PART 3. THE NEW AMERICANS

The question of when the first Swiss farmers' dogs came to America may never be answered to the satisfaction of keepers of records. Surely it may be speculated that Swiss farmers who emigrated to the New World might have brought with them their indispensible dogs for assistance around the farm. Old photographs in the annals of American farming give some tantalizing suggestions about the presence of such dogs in America. So far as firm records are concerned, Arthur Hesser, a noted judge in America and a Swiss native, provided the following background (letter to Dora Gruber, December 6, 1977). "In January 1926, the farmer Isaac Schiess of Florence, Kansas, bought the bitch Donna von der Rothöhe SHSB 23314, born 5/27/25, sired by Max Pulfer 21212 ex Trix von der Rothöhe, bred by Franz Schertenleib; and the dog Poincare von Sumiswald SHSB 21565, born July 24, 1924, sired by Leo Greiner SHSB 9018 ex Netti Iseli, bred by Fr. Iseli. The importer wanted to register this pair with the American Kennel Club, but was not successful in his attempt, although Carl Wittwer, the Swiss stud book registrar (SHSB Stammbuchführer) made every effort to convince the AKC that the Berner Sennenhund was a pure bred Swiss dog. Poincare and Donna produced a litter of five, born May 29, 1926. Since the AKC had refused registration for the parents, the same applied to the litter, and the breeder Schiess therefore registered the five with the SKG under the kennel name "of the Clover Leaf SHSB 25546/25550."

Figure 5. Is this a Bernese puppy in this photo from turn-of-the-century Nebraska?

In the American Kennel Gazette of June 1, 1935, there appeared an article by Mrs. L. Egg-Leach, an English lady living in Switzerland. "The Bernese is a Loyal Dog of the Swiss Alps" was the enthusiastic title of the article, in which Mrs. Egg-Leach extolled the virtues of the breed and presented attractive photographs of adults and puppies. She described her first encounter with the Bernese in Switzerland as follows: "One day, I saw from afar, what I thought was a tricolor collie, harnessed to a small wagon, filled with milk-cans, taking the milk from house to house. I had read much about sled-dogs

and had seen many photographs of them, but I had never seen a dog in harness before; above all, one of my lifelong favorites. It was too much for ne. A dog was a companion and friend to me, not something to be used as a beast of burden.

"I think I lost my head at the time. I forgot, for the moment that I was in a strange land, and that strange lands had strange customs, I had still much to learn. Not only was my interest awakened, but my indignation was aroused at such a sight. When the dog came nearer, I saw that it was a totally different breed. But to me it was a four-footed friend. I had never read nor heard of this breed before, and my interest soon developed into admiration.

"The dog was well cared for, and his master seemed kind to him. Certainly the master did not deserve the bitter reproaches I gave him. I am thankful to this day that he could not understand the few words I could-or thought I could-speak of his language, for they were not complimentary at all. I have since learned much about the draught-dogs, and am fully convinced that they are happier at work than when idle."

PART 4. RECOGNITION BY THE AKC

Mrs. Egg-Leach's enthusiastic article stirred the interest of at least one reader, one who was to become very important for the Bernese in America. The reader was Glen L. Shadow of Ruston, Louisiana. In an article in the January, 1938, issue of Western Kennel World Mr. Shadow wrote about the effect of the article on him and the results of his interest. His own words tell it best: "In June, 1935, while recovering from an attack of influenza, I read an article published in the American Kennel Gazette, written by Mrs. L. Egg-Leach of Winterthur, Switzerland, about the Bernese Mountain Dogs of the Swiss Alps. I read this article some two or three times as this was the dog that I so much admired from the pictures showing the dogs drawing the milk carts in my first grade reader when I was a child.

"The childish desire to own some of these dogs was not completely abandoned, and while I was in France in 1918 and 1919, I had the opportunity of seeing some of these dogs which rekindled this childhood fancy. Because the financial circumstance did not permit me to buy or import these dogs at that time it was necessary for me to abandon the idea as there were none to be had in the United States and no one had thought enough of this particular breed to import them.

"After reading Mrs. Egg-Leach's article, I took the liberty to write her and ask for further information regarding them as well as some assistance in making a purchase. After some months of correspondence and untiring efforts on the part of Mrs. Egg-Leach, she succeeded in buying for me on August 30, 1936, Fridy v Haslenbach from Mr. Fritz Stalder, breeder. This was the best female dog of her breed in all Europe and it is useless to say that a very fancy price was required to purchase this bitch. Fridy was awarded first prize in the 1935 dog show at Basle; also Excellent and C.A.C.I.B., which is the highest champion certificate on the continent of Europe, called the International Beauty Championship Certificate, and all who have seen her since her arrival in the United States agree that it would be difficult to produce a more perfect or more beautiful dog.

"On September 28, 1936, I forwarded draft to Mrs. Egg-Leach to purchase Quell v Tiergarten (Felix, kennel name) from Mr. G. Haiti. He was not the best to be had as the owner of the best male refused to sell him at any price."

Mr. Shadow's admiration for these dogs is clearly shown later in the article where he wrote, "Anyone looking into these dogs' deep brown eyes, can see that they have a wonderful understanding and a kind, loving disposition. They are most affectionate toward children and are quite courageous in defending their rights. As a working dog I have never seen one that I think equals the Bernese Dog and if the homes that have suffered the loss of children from vicious kidnappers had had one of these dogs as a pet and pal for their child, no one would have been able to molest them without first killing the dog."

Clearly the influence of Mr. Shadow and his enthusiasm for the breed was vital to the recognition of these dogs by the American Kennel Club. Mr. Shadow was

modest about this achievement, writing simply: "On April 21, 1937, I had a letter from Mr. Perry B. Rice, Secretary of the American Kennel Club, stating that the Board of Directors held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 1937, and it was officially decided to recognize the Bernese Mountain Dog as a new breed in the Working Class. These are the first and only dogs of this breed to ever be registered with the American Kennel Club or the Secretary of Agriculture."

The June 1, 1937 issue of American Kennel Club Registrations carried the listings of the first two Bernese Mountain Dogs ever registered in this country, Mr. Shadow's Fridy and Felix. They are:

> FRIDY V HASLENBACH (B)(A-156,753)-Glen L. Shadow. (Br) Frank Stalder, Switzerland. (Wh) Mar. 9, 1931. Blk, tn & wh mkgs. By Alex v Lotzwil out of Cornelia v Haslenbach by Ajax v Bucheggberg out of Belline v Binsberg by Nero v Burrigut out of Badli v Tiergarten; Ajax v Bucheggberg by Ringgel (Sonne) out of Miss (Soharrer), Alex v Lotzwil by Bruno v d Rotifluh out of Belline v Lotzwil by Blass v Lehn out of Netti v Lotzwil; Bruno v d Rotifluh by Nestor v Bifang out of Belline (Dennler). QUELL V TIERGARTEN (D)(A-156,752)-Glen L. Shadow. (Br) A. Sohoch, Switzerland. (Wh) June 14, 1935. Blk, tn i wh mkgs. By Galant v Tiergarten out of Sylvia v d Rothohe by Olaf v d Rothohe out of Lora v d Rothohe by Bello v d Rothifluh out of Afra v d Rothohe; Olaf v d Rothohe by Lord v d Rothohe out of Belline v d Rothohe. Galant v Tiergarten by Lord v d Rothohe out of Carola v d Rothohe by Max (Pulfer) out of Bella-Sonne; Lord v d Rothohe by Bello v d Rothifluh out of Afra v d Rothohe.

The name selected for these dogs in America, Bernese Mountain Dog, reflects a precedent set in England. It is not a literal translation of Berner Sennenhund but is perhaps a little more euphonious than the literal "Bernese Alpine Herdsman 's Dog."

PART 5. 1937 TO 1967

For more than ten years, until 1949, Glen Shadow was the only owner-breeder of AKC registered Bernese Mountain Dogs. In 1938 his Fridy produced one puppy, Shadow's Man Friday of America, sired by Felix. Later in that year the same pair produced a litter of eight. No dogs were registered during World War II, when all importing stopped. In 1915 Felix was bred to one of his daughters to produce Leo of Shadow Glen. Mr. Shadow imported another male, Cedrico v Allenluften, who sired two litters in 1947. During 1949, 1950, and 1951 three individuals, Robert M. Youngs, Stewart G. Mayse, and Yvonne Auer imported dogs from Switzerland.

Figure 6. Ajax vom Bucheggberg, a well known dog featured in the 1947 edition of the AKC’s "Complete Dog Book."

Some public attention was also being given to these dogs. Fridy was pictured in the December, 1941, issue of National Geographic Magazine. In the February 1951 issue of the American Kennel Gazette there appeared a very appealing article on the breed by Arthur Frederick Jones. The breed was also favorably mentioned in other publications. The 1947 edition of the AKC's "Complete Dog Book" featured a photograph of the handsome Ajax vom Bucheggberg. (This photograph led at least one budding fancier, the writer of these lines, to a life-long dedication to the breed!) For Harry Miller's book, "Gallery of American Dogs" (1950), the photographers Arthur and Katherine Mawhinney traveled to Louisiana to photograph Mr. Shadow's Fred. An attractive photograph in "The Book of the Dog", edited by Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, shows a Swiss girl with her faithful

Figure 7. Shadow Glen Fred, AKC no. W-67991, born June 17, 1947, by Cedrico v. Allenluften out of Frances of Shadow Glen; owned by Glen Shadow (from a photo by Mawhinney in Miller, 1950).

Bernese companion. Not all published information on the breed was so accurate, however. In "The Treasury of Dogs" by A.F. Jones and John Rendel (1964), for example, the photograph illustrating the Bernese Mountain Dog appears to be some sort of collie mixture. The National Geographic's book of dogs, "Man's Best Friend" (1966), has a striking painting of a Bernese (lacking russet on the cheeks) but in the text the dog is compared in size to a collie.

After 1954 numbers of Bernese Mountain Dogs in America increased somewhat. Miss Nelly Frey, a Swiss woman living in Vermont, bred a pair in 1959. In the 1960s it was difficult to obtain information on the breed in this country, although by 1962 nine owners in distinct parts of the country were listed with the AKC. Geographic distribution was wide, from the south where Dr. C. Walter Mattingly in Louisiana and Dr. Judge M. Lyle in Texas had Bernese, to the upper midwest with the dogs of Bishop W.W. Horstick and his daughter Mary Alice, to the Pacific northwest, where Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hutchins, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Harberts, Bea Knight, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thompson were Bernese enthusiasts. Bea Knight, a well known breeder of Saint Bernards, established her breeding program at Sanctuary Woods using her imported bitch Gretel v. Langmoose and the Horstick's Ultra v. Oberfeld (Freddy). The Thompsons imported Bella v. Moosboden and, mating her to the Hutchins' Bobi v. Bauernheim, began the well known "Bella" line.

As the number of Bernese in the country increased, exhibiting in conformation shows became more feasible. After the group judging at a sizeable show in 1965, Ultra v. Oberfeld and his owner were approached by the judge, who said, "This is a beautiful dog and I was very tempted to place him in the group. But I have never seen one before and don't know what it should look like." This illustrates well the frustrations of exhibiting a rare breed. Bernese owners were encouraged when Sanctuary Woods' Black Knight, owned by Roberta Subin, received a fourth place in the Working Group at the Riverside Kennel Club show on November 6, 1966. Thus, Black Knight won the first 3 point major in the breed, was the first Bernese to place in the Group, and later went on to become the first Bernese conformation champion in the United States.

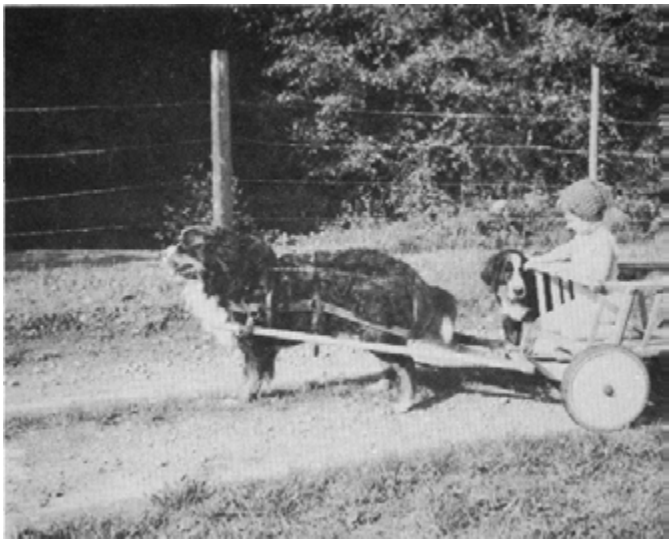


Figure 8. At Harold and Jane Thompson’s in Washington during the late 1960’s.

The Bernese began also to show their intelligence in the show ring. Aya of Veralp, owned by W.W. and M.A. Horstick, became the first obedience title holding Bernese, attaining the C.D. in June, 1962.

Figure 9. Unidentified ?Bernese Mountain Dog in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1960.

The following registration figures give an indication of the development of the breed in America during its first thirty years of recognition.

Year	Number registered	Year	Number registered
1937	2	1952	0
1938	1	1953	2
1939	0	1954	5
1940	0	1955	3
1941	0	1956	3
1942	0	1957	6
1943	0	1958	0
1944	0	1959	7
1945	0	1960	10
1946	1	1961	7
1947	1	1962	4
1948	7	1963	6
1949	2	1964	11
1950	1	1965	17
1951	2	1966	31
		1967	22

By 1966 the breed had made enough headway that owners and breeders were communicating more and more. The next step came in 1968, when fanciers in California led the way in forming the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America.

PART 6. 1968 TO PRESENT, THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Origin of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America can be traced to the leadership and organizational skills of Carol Pyle of California. Carol, who was introduced to Bernese Mountain Dogs by Bea Knight of Sanctuary Woods Kennel, foresaw the need to bring the scattered and still sparce owners, breeders, and dogs together across the country. In Newsletter Volume I, Number 1, March 1968, of the new club, Carol wrote how it all began. "Since the first letter about the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America was sent out January 28, 1968, a great deal has happened! We now have 33 members, many of whom sent additional names along with their applications, and these people have also been contacted, so we should be getting more members as we go along.

"The 33 members own approximately 50 Bernese Mountain Dogs - most owning a single dog or bitch. Several are active in other breed clubs and discovered and fell in love with the Bernese through this interest. Others have spent a great deal of time trying to locate the Bernese Mountain Dogs, and/or making arrangements to import them.

"All in all, it would appear that the club is off to an excellent and enthusiastic beginning, and we are delighted with the help and response so far."

It was indeed a good beginning. Progress can be measured to some extent in considering activities relative to the Club's objectives as stated in Article I, Section II, of the Constitution.

Objective a). To do all possible to bring the natural qualities of the Bernese Mountain Dog (Berner Sennenhund) to perfection. This important objective is in the hands of all members of the Club. It involves not only breeding programs that are aimed toward such perfection but also raising and training the dogs in a manner consistent with their character. The "perfection" that is sought in appearance can be measured against the standard at conformation matches and shows; "perfection" in temperament is examined at obedience trials and in tracking and carting exercises. Another measure of perfection, that of perfection in soundness and health, also has been a concern of the Club since its beginning. Although all aspects of health are considered, the Club has put a good deal of emphasis on the problem of hip dysplasia, a condition that plagues many breeds, especially those of large size. Members are encouraged to know the condition of their dogs' hip structure and to take this structure into consideration in planning breeding programs. Members have been quite conscientious about this, and by end of 1985 there were 677 Bernese Mountain Dogs that had been registered with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals as having no sign of hip dysplasia. Nevertheless, hip dysplasia remains a serious concern. In the OFA records between 1974 and 1984 (see E.A. Corley and P.M. Hogan, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, vol. 187, no. 8, pages 805-809), it is reported that between 1974 and 1981 there were 792 evaluations done of hip radiographs of Bernese Mountain Dogs. Of these, 30.3% were rated dysplastic, 68.1% were normal, and 1.5% were borderline. This placed the breed seventh from the highest in

incidence of the condition (following the Saint Bernard, Newfoundland, Kuvasz, American Staffordshire Terrier, Welsh Springer Spaniel, and Bullmastiff). It must also be remembered that radiographs of some dogs that have been diagnosed by their veterinarian as being clearly dysplastic have probably not been sent to the OFA, which would raise the incidence still higher. There is indication in the figures, however, that owners of Bernese Mountain Dogs are conscientious, for records from 24.6% of the "eligible population" (that is, the number of evaluations divided by the number of AKC registrations) have been submitted to the OFA (only Rottweilers and Flat-coated Retrievers have a better record in this regard). There is room for a good deal of progress here, but clearly many Bernese breeders are trying to follow current veterinary recommendations in allevieating this condition.

Objective b). To encourage the organization of independent local Bernese Mountain Dog Specialty Clubs where sufficient fanciers of the breed exist to meet AKC requirements. As membership grew, local concentrations led to the establishment of a number of local groups. These groups conduct educational events and meetings, have matches, and serve as sponsoring groups for national specialty shows. Groups now formed include Bernese Mountain Dog Clubs of 1) the Finger Lakes, 2) Greater Seattle, 3) Nashoba Valley, 4) Southeastern Wisconsin, and 5) Watchung, and the San Francisco Bay Berners. Several other local groups are in the process of being organized.

Objective c). To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which Bernese Mountain Dogs shall be Judged. The original standard of the breed was accepted in 1937. One of the early projects of the Club was establishment of a committee for the study of the standard. This led to a revision of the standard, which was voted upon favorably by Club members and accepted by the AKC on July 8, 1980. Later the Club was asked to participate in an AKC sponsored program to produce a slide (later video) show to illustrate the standard. This program is being used for the education of judges and fanciers alike.

Objective d). To protect and advance the interests of the breed and encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows. This includes the encouragement of active participation in dog shows. One of the first projects of the Club after its formation was to write a Code of Ethics that must be signed by all wishing to enter the Club. The Code addresses breeding practices and encourages breeders to exercise great care in all aspects of this important activity. It specifies that good sportsmanship is required not only in competitions but in all activities related to the dogs and the Club.

Figure 10. Junior showmanship class at a club sponsored match in 1975.

Objective e). To conduct sanctioned matches, and specialty shows and obedience trials under the AKC rules. Between 1970, when the Club's first Fun Match was held in California, and 1975, the Club sponsored a series of fun matches, B-OB matches, and then A-OA matches. These were highly successful, serving to train members in the process of running dog events, and educational, for members saw increasing numbers of dogs and were able to compare them with the standard. They also provided a great deal of fun and comradeship for the participants. Members often had to travel long distances for these matches, but all considered the experiences to be worth the time. In 1975 the successful completion of

matches led the AKC to grant the Club "licensed" status, which meant that specialty shows could be held. Since the first National Specialty in 1976, these annual events have played an important part in the activities of the Club.

Figure 11. A group outside the ring at a supported entry in Pennsylvania, 1974.

Highlights of the history of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America are listed below by year. This is a rather dry enumeration, but any members who took part in the work and the fun will be able to fill in the details from their own memories of an eventful nineteen years.

CLUB HISTORY AT A GLANCE, 1968 to 1987.

1968. Organization of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, first in California, then nationwide. Newsletter started. Membership reached 62 by end of year; AKC registration of Bernese Mountain Dogs, 43.

1969. First election of officers and board members. Membership reached over 70 by end of year; AKC registration of Bernese, 59.

1970. First Club Fun Match, Bernerfest I, in California. Membership reached 97 by end of year; AKC registration of Bernese, 103.

1971. First "in person" meeting of the Club, with 20 regular and 3 junior members present following the supported entry at the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, show, in March. Fun matches, Bernerfest II in California during July and Oktoberfest in Michigan. Membership over 100; AKC registration of Bernese, 152.

1972. Club Constitution and Code of Ethics approved. Fun matches, Bernerfest III in California and Septemberfest in Pennsylvania. AKC registration of Bernese, 185.

1973. Reached "sanctioned" status in view of AKC, with first sanctioned B-OB match in Massachusetts during April. Two more sanctioned B-OB matches followed, at Bernerfest IV in California and Septemberfest in Pennsylvania. Anniversary Book produced (with annual suppoements or yearbooks thereafter). AKC registration of Bernese, 214.

1974. Sanctioned B-OB matches in Ohio and New York were followed by permission from AKC to hold first A-OA match, held at Bernerfest V in California. Membership topped 200; AKC registration of Bernese, 198.

1975. Second sanctioned A-OA match, held in Pennsylvania, followed by elevation to licensed status with AKC; thus the Club was approved to hold specialty shows. AKC registration of Bernese, 181.

1976. First National Specialty, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in March with 71 in competition. Membership topped 300; AKC registration of Bernese, 292.

1977. Second National Specialty, Fresno, California, in April with 57 in competition. AKC registration of Bernese, 324.

1978. Third National Specialty, Pontiac, Michigan, in May (first specialty to be independently held), 104 entered in competition (including obedience). AKC registration of Bernese, 238.

1979. Fourth National Specialty, Macungie, Pennsylvania. AKC registration of Bernese, 318.

1980. Fifth National Specialty, Santa Rosa, California, with 87 in competition. New standard approved by the AKC. AKC registration of Bernese, 380.

1981. Sixth National Specialty, Oak Creek, Wisconsin, with 102 in

competition. Granted status as Member Club by the AKC. AKC registration of Bernese, 450.

1982. Seventh National Specialty, Owego, New York. AKC registration of Bernese, 424.

1983. Eighth National Specialty in Issaquah, Washington, with 103 dogs in competition. AKC registration of Bernese, 482.

1984. Ninth National Specialty in Romulus, Michigan, with 161 dogs in competition. AKC registration of Bernese, 595.

1985. Tenth National Specialty in Parsippany, New Jersey, with 222 dogs in competition. Completion of the AKC sponsored slide and video show illustrating Bernese. AKC registration of Bernese, 683.

1986. Eleventh National Specialty in San Francisco, California, with 146 dogs in competition.

1987. CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH YEAR OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG BY THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB.

Figure 12. That was an interesting 50 years. Now on to the future.

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Figure 13. Drawing by Paul Brown, done around 1950 (from Miller).

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

GENERAL APPEARANCE - A sturdy, balanced, large, strong-boned dog. Intelligent and having an appearance of strength and agility suiting it to draft and droving work in mountainous regions. Dogs appear masculine, while bitches are distinctly feminine.

HEAD - **Skull**-flat and broad with a slight furrow and a well-defined, but not exaggerated stop. **Muzzle**-strong and straight. Dry mouthed. **Teeth** - strong; scissors bite; complete dentition. Serious fault: overshot or undershot bite. **Ears** - medium sized, triangular in shape, gently rounded at the tip, hanging close to the head when in repose, brought forward and raised at the base when alert. Eyes-dark brown, slightly oval in shape with close-fitting eyelids; expression intelligent, animated and gentle. **Serious faults:** inverted or everted eyelids. **Disqualification:** Blue eye.

NECK AND BODY - Neck-strong and muscular and of medium length. **Back**-broad and firm. Topline level from withers to croup. Chest-deep and capacious with well-sprung ribs and brisket reaching at least to the elbows. **Body**-nearly square with over-all body length measuring slightly greater than height at the withers. **Loin**-strong. **Croup**-broad and smoothly rounded to tail insertion.

FOREQUARTERS - Shoulders-moderately laid back, flatlying, well muscled, never loose. **Forelegs**-straight and strong with the elbows well under the shoulders. Pasterns slightly sloping without weakness. Feet round and compact with well-arched toes. Declaws may be removed from front legs.

HINDQUARTERS - Thighs-broad, strong and muscular. **Stifles**-moderately bent, tapering smoothly into hocks. **Hocks**-well let down and straight as viewed from the rear. Dewclaws should be removed from rear legs. **Tail**-Bushy. Bone reaching to the hock joint or below. When in repose, tail should be carried low, upward swirl permissible when alert. May be carried gaily, but may never curl or be carried over the back. **Fault:** Kink in tall. **Coat** - Thick, moderately long, slight wavy or straight, with a bright natural sheen.

COLOR AND MARKINGS - Tri-color: jet black ground color with rich rust and clear white markings. Nose always black. **Markings** (symmetry desired): **Rust:** over each eye; on cheeks, preferably reaching at least to the corner of the mouth; on each side of chest; on all four legs; under tail. **White:** blaze and muzzle-band; chest marking, typically forming an inverted cross; feet; tip of tail. **Faults:** Markings other than as described to be faulted in direct relationship to the extent of the deviation. **Serious faults:** White legs; white collars. **Disqualifications:** any ground color other than black.

GAIT - Natural working gait is slow trot, but capable of speed and agility in keeping with use in draft and droving work. Good reach in front. Powerful drive from the rear transmitted through a level back. No wasted action. Front and hind legs on each side follow through in the same plane. At increased speed, legs tend to converge toward the center line.

HEIGHT - Dogs: $24^{1/2}$" to $27^{1/2}$" at the withers. Bitches: $22^{1/2}$" to $25^{1/2}$" at the withers.

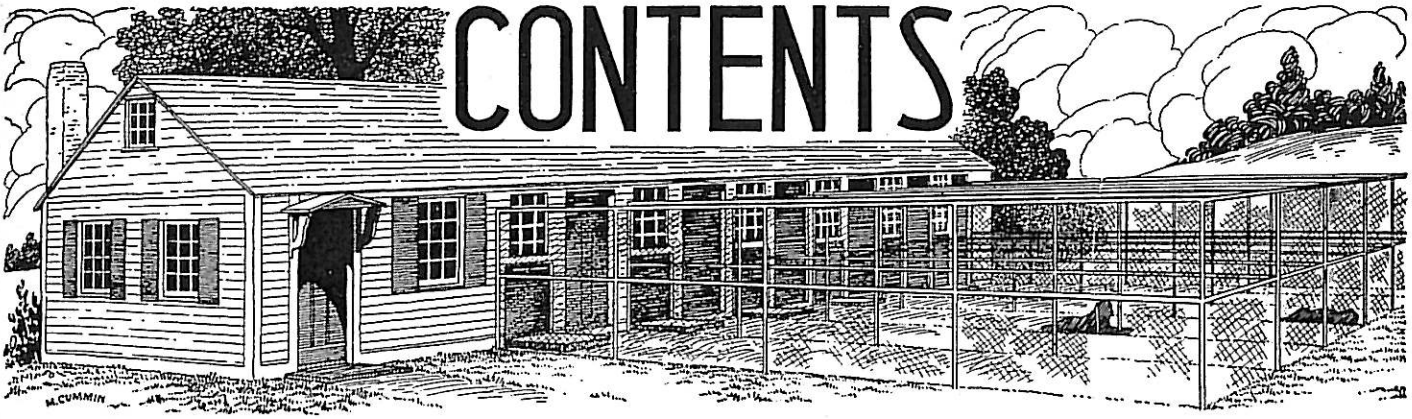
TEMPERAMENT - Self-confident, alert and good-natured. Never sharp or shy. A dog which will not stand for examination shall be dismissed from the ring.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Blue eye color.

Any ground color other than black.

Approved July 8, 1980



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1935

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The Bernese Is A Loyal Dog Of The Swiss Alps

By MRS. L. EGG-LEACH

Questa vom Sumiswald is an excellent specimen of the Bernese dog. She is exceedingly fond of children, as are all members of the breed

THERE are four species of Swiss mountain dogs, or "Sennenhunde," as they are called in Switzerland. They are: the Appenzeller Sennenhunde from the Canton of Appenzell, the smallest of the four species; the Entlibucher Sennenhunde, from Entlibuch in the Canton of Lucerne; the Grosse Schweizer Sennenhunde—large Swiss—the largest, and the draught-dogs of Switzerland; and the Berner Sennenhunde, the only long-coated one, and the acknowledged aristocrat of them all.

All are tricolor, black, white, tan. But in this breed, the light tan markings are never encouraged — they can best be described as a rich, russet-brown.

At one time, there were many with whole white collars and fore-legs. But of late years, the fanciers have preferred more black, and the white is now confined to chest, feet, tip of tail, and in most cases, to a white stripe, or blaze up the foreface.

It is the Bernese, the long-coated species, which I have chosen for my subject. It may not seem quite fair to the fanciers of the other three species, but it is the one with which I am most familiar, having always had the good fortune to have some in my near neighborhood, which I could watch and study individually.

I am not a fancier of this breed, but I have watched it closely, without taking any active part, for very many years, and my admiration has never waned.

These mountain dogs, although a very old Swiss breed, do not share the world-wide fame of their near relatives, the St. Bernards, from the Hospice of the Great St. Bernard. In fact, until a few years before the great war, they even were not very well known in their own country, Switzerland. For a great many years, they seemed to have been quite forgotten. The old people in the Canton of Berne knew them well, but in time, they were seldom seen.

THE three other species were used to herd the cattle on the Alps. But the Bernese species, of which I am writing, belonged mostly to the basket weavers in and around the Canton of Berne. These dogs were used to draw the small wagons, filled with baskets, to the market place, in Berne.

NEVERTHELESS, they were passed by unnoticed for many years. Their brave deeds were never brought to the notice of the public, at home or abroad. Still these dogs did their duty, year in and year out, often under the greatest hardships, and without the kindly and loving care that are bestowed on the St. Bernards by the monks at the Hospice.

Their masters—the basket weavers —were reared in a hard school. Work and poverty was often their lot. They lived miles from anywhere, in some lonely mountain valley or hamlet, and their only recreation was the long tramp, beside their wagons, on market-day.

Theirs was no easy life, and the dogs shared it.

It was in the market place that the dogs were noticed. One man related he remembered his parents speaking about the dogs. Yet it was a long time before they were brought out of exile. No one really cared about them, and they were often crossed with all sorts of breeds, often choosing their own mates, until the time came when they were almost an extinct breed.

Then it was, in the year 1892, that this one man went in search of some good specimen.

I will mention no names, as there are many that may not be left out, and names would convey nothing to my readers. Suffice it to say, that, in a short time, others followed his good example, and a few good specimens were unearthed to try and build up a

breed that had been sadly neglected.

Why such lovely dogs should have remained unnoticed for so long a time, no one seems to know. Some put this down to the craze for foreign breeds, especially British ones. Personally, I do not think this could make any difference. These dogs were simply passed by.

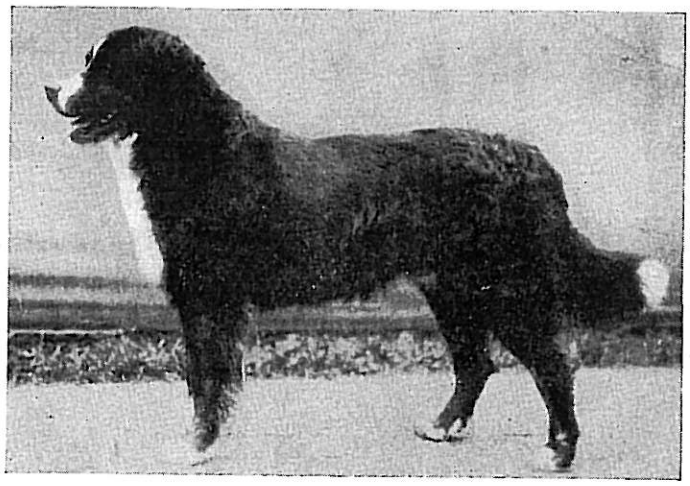
IT is all very mysterious when you consider the age of the breed. Some declare that the dog can be traced back as far as the Romans. Others say it originated from the dogs of Tibet. No one seemed to have seen their value in the past, as a pure-bred, national breed.

Let me relate how and when I first made the acquaintance of these Bernese dogs, many years ago, before they were brought to the notice of the public and before their club was formed. My interest in them at first was purely a sentimental one. I had only just arrived in Switzerland, where I have resided now for more than 30 years.

One day, I saw from afar, what I thought was a tricolor collie, harnessed to a small wagon, filled with milk-cans, taking the milk from house to house. I had read much about sled-dogs and had seen many photographs of them, but I had never seen a dog in harness before; above all, one of my lifelong favorites. It was too much for me. A dog was a companion and friend to me, not something to be used as a beast of burden.

I think I lost my head at the time. I forgot, for the moment that I was in a strange land, and that strange lands had strange customs, I had still much to learn. Not only was my interest awakened, but my indignation was aroused at such a sight. When the dog came nearer, I saw that it was a totally different breed. But to me it was a four-footed friend. I had never read nor heard of this breed before, and my interest soon developed into admiration.

The dog was well cared for, and his master seemed kind to him. Certainly the master did not deserve the bitter reproaches I gave him. I am thankful to this day that he could not understand the few words I could—or thought I could—speak of his language, for they were not complimentary at all. I have since learned much about the draught-dogs, and am fully convinced that they are happier at work than when idle.



The Bernese does not make friends easily with strangers. Here is Ajax vom Buchegg-berg, a dog that is very well known

THE man told me later on that he was from the Canton of Berne, and his dog was a "Dürbächler," the name by which they were then known.

Since I have learned more about the breed, I now know that this was not a well-bred specimen. It was many years after that, before I saw a really good dog.

The Bernese species are seldom to be seen in harness now. They soon found favor with the richer classes, and are valued very much as house-dogs and companions, especially where there are children.

They are passionately fond of children. It is no unusual sight to see them pulling along a wagon full of children, for the fun of the thing.

As I am writing, I can see one of my neighbor's Bernese dogs, pulling some children along the road in a sled. He has no harness on. The children have attached a piece of rope to his collar, and he is rushing up and down the road, barking for all he is worth.

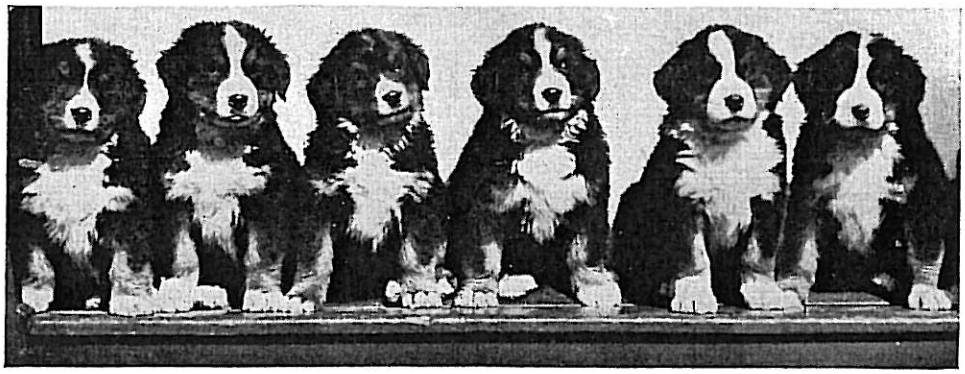
And one, belonging to another neighbor, I can see rolling in the snow with the children, letting them snowball him to their hearts' content. It is a pretty sight.

Love of children, faithfulness to their master and his family seem to be very strongly developed in this breed, there is no treachery in their nature. Their owners do not like to see them leading a lazy life. One authority on Swiss breeds once said of them, as well as of the St. Bernards: "they are trained when born."

One would really think there was some truth in this statement, for they love work of any sort.

THEY were used to hardships in the old days, and I do not think they will ever lose their working qualities. They can be trained to anything within reason.

Of the four species of the Swiss mountain dogs, the long-coated ones are the aristocrats



Bernese puppies are adorable. They soon grow into excellent house dogs and splendid companions

During the great war, they were trained, by the Red Cross, in Germany. One dog was sent from Switzerland to be trained for that work. The result was splendid, and proved their ability for such work, in time of war.

Within the last few years, they have made great strides, both in quality and quantity. I think I may say that some of the champions of to-day are as perfect as they can be bred.

I will now relate how the Bernese species of Swiss mountain dogs were brought to the fore, and saved from becoming an extinct breed.

It was not an easy task these Swiss patriots set themselves when they first tried to find some pure-bred specimens for the foundation of their breeding stock. Outside of the Canton of Berne, there were few, if any, that could answer this purpose.

The first was unearthed, as I mentioned before, in 1892, at a place called Dürbach, in the Canton of Berne. For many years they were called "Dürbächler" after this place.

Then other pioneers set to work, determined to save what was left. Soon more breeding stock was found, and the breeding of the pure-bred Dürbächler began in earnest.

IN 1907, a club was formed, called the Dürbächler Club. About a year later, on finding these dogs all over the Canton, the pioneers decided to change their name to "Berner Sennenhunde," the name they are now known by. The old name was dropped, except in some cases where the owners are loathe to drop it altogether, and the club was renamed the Berner Sennenhund Club.

From then on, the breed never looked back. The pioneers worked hard to achieve what they had determined to do. Soon the dogs were to be seen all over the country, and the number of exhibits at the Swiss shows increased from year to year. It took many years before the pioneers succeeded.

BUT they did not give in. And in the end, they had the satisfaction of having good results. Faults were rapidly bred out, and the public began to admire them. They were now an established national Swiss breed, of which the country is proud.

A year or two ago, they were mentioned in the doggy press in England. But the quarantine law of that country has, up to the present time, spoilt all efforts to get some imported into the British Isles.

The quarantine kennels are very expensive, and no one cares to take the plunge with a new breed.

Rea vom Durrbach is another outstanding specimen of the Bernese dog, a breed still natural and unfaked

I have been told that one or more have been exported to America, but I do not know to which part of that continent.

STILL I believe they have not yet been brought to the notice of the American public, neither have they been recognized by the American Kennel Club.

At the special shows, held for Swiss breeds from time to time, in Switzerland, some splendid specimens are to be seen. It is here the novice can learn much by watching the placings of the best dogs and bitches. Their judges are mostly very thorough with the Swiss breeds, and carefully overhaul the exhibits. A cow-hocked and badly balanced dog has no chance with them, and movement is one of their greatest "fads" if I may call it so. It is time well spent to watch them sorting out the weedy specimens.

Faking is not done, and this breed has not been ruined by too drastic inbreeding. Neither is there any question of changing their type to suit some whim, which has so often spelt disaster.

The Bernese dogs are still what nature meant them to be; unfaked, useful and good all around dogs. When well cared for, a dog anyone can be proud of.

If my readers will kindly look at the photographs of Ajax vom Buchegg-berg and Rea vom Dürrbach they will see one of the best braces in the country. Ajax is a well-known stud-dog, and in great demand for good bitches.

If they picture to themselves a well-balanced dog, standing from 25 to 27 inches at shoulder, bitches up to 25 inches; with jet black, silky, and slightly wavy coat of medium length; white markings on chest, feet, tip of tail, and on foreface; rich russet-brown markings distributed over muzzle, thighs, under body, and tail; with a brown spot over each eye, which may never be missing; dark brown eyes, which seem to invite trust; ears V-shaped and set on high, hanging close to head; flat, broad, well-developed skull; medium stop and short, broad muzzle; level mouth; long bushy tail or brush, carried low, slight upward swirl permissible; compact, not

(*Continued on page* 131)

Helga should have the opportunity to raise a family. Consequently, because of her friendship with the Warrens, the bitch was sent to Warrendane, and bred to Ch. Jamas. And it is at Warrendane that Helga will whelp her litter. Miss Keller frequently visits the Warrens to see her favorite dog, and fondle some of the puppies there.

Time alone will tell the future of the Warrendane Kennels, but, after viewing the splendid manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Warren are conducting one of the finest hobbies in the world, it is not difficult to predict that this kennel will accomplish worthwhile results in the near future, and will stand for many years as one of our finest establishments.

THE BERNESE IS A LOYAL DOG OF THE SWISS ALPS

(*Continued from page 20*)

too long body; straight, muscular fore-legs and well-developed stifles; and an all around sound, robust dog. They will have formed a picture of a really good specimen of the Bernese species of Swiss mountain dogs.

They are very active, alert dogs. Not boisterous in a rough way. Also not quarrelsome, unless attacked, and then they know how to take care of themselves. They are very hardy. An outside kennel, free from draughts; filled with good straw in winter; good, wholesome, doggy food; and a few minutes grooming daily are all they need to keep them in the pink of condition.

They are extremely faithful; a real one man's dog. They do not make friends with strangers. It is always hard for them to get used to a new home, and for that reason they should be bought young. Outside of their master's domains they have no interests; in fact, this trait has often been their undoing. To show what I mean, I will relate something which happened not so very long ago:

A neighbor bought one of these dogs as a puppy, and as the dog grew older, he tired of him for some reason unknown. He then sold the dog, when about 2 years old, to a good home, some miles away.

After a few days, the dog was to be seen, lying out in the road in front of his old home. He was returned to his new owner again and again. But he always returned. He never went inside his old home, because a rival of his own breed had taken his place.

He would follow the children to and from school, as he had done in the old days, but they were forbidden to encourage him. In despair, they took to chasing him away, even stoning him, but he stuck to his post in front of the gate. Neighbors fed him out of pity, but he ate scarcely enough to keep him alive, until one day, lying in front of his old home, he was run over and died in the arms of his old master.

The man told me that he would never forget that dying look. No reproach, only a deep love and adoration for the only master he had ever acknowledged.

There is one of these dogs on each side of my house. We are friends, as far as they make friends, a friendly wag of their tails. Here our friendship ends. If I put out my hand to touch them, they walk away. I have never touched them since they were puppies, and they are old dogs now.

I think this is a lovely trait in any breed, and I have never noticed a bad one in these dogs.

The best recommendation for any breed is that of the non-fancier. We are all too apt to be blind to the faults of our favorite breeds, but not so with the faults of others. I only hope I have done these dogs the justice they deserve. I have tried to give you my opinion of the breed, and that opinion has never altered in all these years.

I am sure if some of the American citizens, who visit Switzerland, could see the best strains, the Bernese species of Swiss mountain dogs would soon take its place at the side of the St. Bernards in America. The dog well deserves it.

I would never advise anyone to buy haphazard. As in all breeds, there are good and bad strains. In the best strains the faults have been, for the most part, well bred out. Only two remain which give the breeders some trouble. They are: too gaily carried tails and curly coats. But in some strains, even this has disappeared. The coat must be wavy, but it should never curl.

Beside the Berner Sennehund Club there is an Association for Swiss breeds, called the Zuchtverband. This Association guards the interests of all Swiss breeds and their breeders, helping them with breeding and other problems.

The Swiss breeders have also not been spoilt, and their prices are not fancy ones.

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I have never heard of a fancy price being charged for a Swiss breed yet.

I hope the time will come when the Bernese mountain dogs may be called "a coming breed" on the other side of the Atlantic.

SHOULD YOU GO TO AMHERST YOU WILL MEET THESE DOGS

(*Continued from page 22*)

might I call it?) is 'Spot,' though I attribute that to my master's color blindness, since I have myriad spots. However, the name means little because, as you know, I'll come eagerly to anyone who calls me anything.

"You suggest that I am too grown up for the High School, and I thank you for such a high compliment, but, alas, that is not the reason I shun that institution and seem to prefer the College, but my master has distinctly told me to keep away. In fact, he tells me to 'stay home' every day, but I fool him as soon as he disappears around the corner. I crave excitement the same as any two-year-old youngster does, so what does my master think by telling me to sit on the front porch all day? Oh, well, I go off and have my fun and get back by mid-afternoon, so he never knows the difference—excepting one time when he found me by the College library and seemed quite disgusted by my peregrination. (Isn't that some word for a dog? You see, I associate with Mr. Webster, too.)

"One more thing I might add, Mr. Dyer, is that I think I'm a sort of English setter, not a spaniel, though as regards my ancestry I'm not the least bit fussy—the less said about it the better.

"I expect to get back to 'work' again, going my daily rounds.

"Doggily yours,

"Spot Foth."

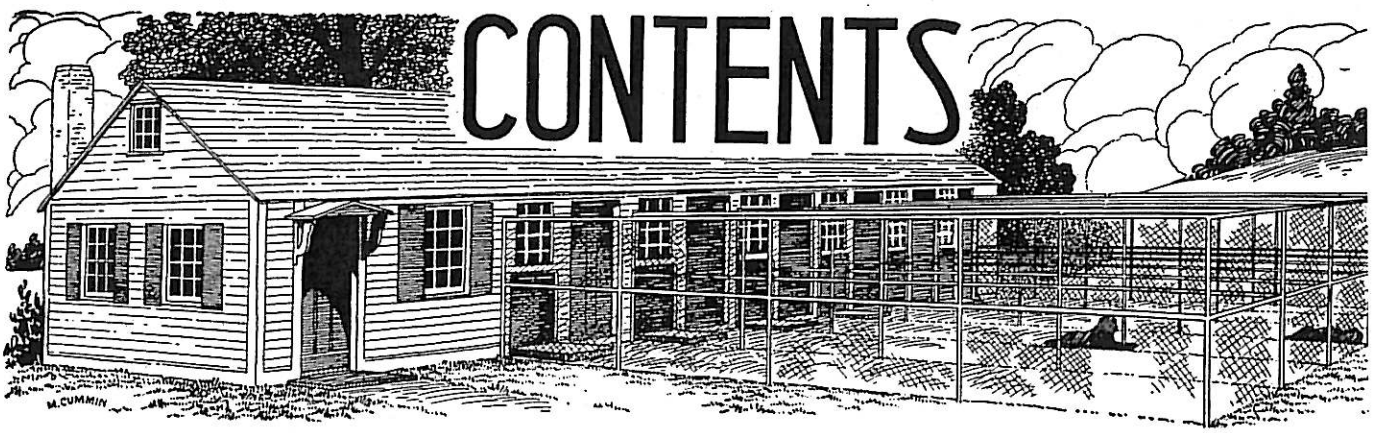
Spot Foth may not have written that letter. But if you love dogs as I do, you will not worry regarding a little thing like that. There was his name, and that is enough for me.

HERE IS THE CORRECT WAY TO FEED YOUR PUPPIES

(*Continued from page 17*)

If it is borne in mind that a medicine dropper, when three-quarters full, holds about a gram, and that an ounce contains 28 grams, it is a simple matter to know the proper amount to feed.

Always remember that the puppy grows on the solids in the food. Water is not to be considered in our calculations. Water is essential to life and growth, but that is taken for granted. Actual accretions in growth come from the food solids. For that reason, which cannot be too often repeated, if milk is diluted more than the composition



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Why Collars Were Worn By Early Swiss Dogs

By MRS. L. EGG-LEACH

I THINK it is safe to say that every country in the world has its national dog. Of course, many are not "fancied," but in the main, they are loyal, intelligent animals, and each breed goes to prove that the dog is loved by all mankind. But I wonder if there are many countries in the world that have characteristic dog collars, so interesting and of so much historic value that they are preserved in national museums for future generations to study, if not to admire?

It is quite possible that Switzerland is the only country that has a collection of dog collars. True, the collection is small. Still the ten collars that may be seen in the Swiss National Museum in Zuerich are most interesting, and one that might well be studied by all dog lovers who are fortunate enough to visit this busy, industrial Swiss city, famous for its silk manufactures.

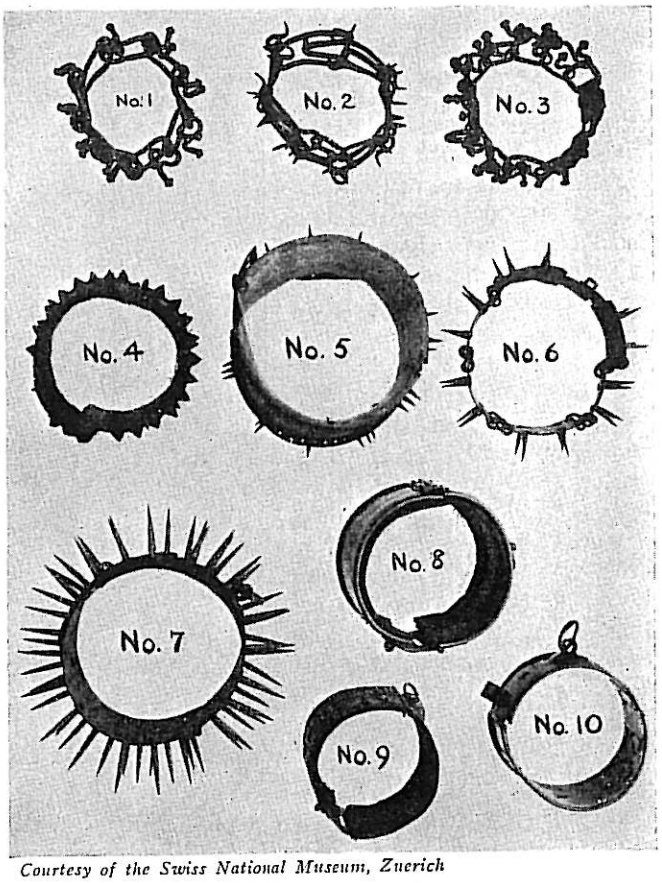
These dog collars belong to a period when Switzerland was not the peaceful and highly cultivated country that we know today; to a time when the land was in some parts infested by wild animals, such as bears, wild boars, and wolves. Incidentally, the last named animals were not exterminated until the beginning of the 18th Century.

In those "good, old days"—if they really were good—it often happened that domesticated dogs were attacked by these wild animals; in fact, sometimes they were attacked by other dogs. And as the domesticated dogs were of great value, it was necessary to protect their throats from the sharp teeth of their opponents. So the collars were "invented"—I like the word, don't you?—and they went a long way towards saving the lives of the domesticated animals.

Like many a casual observer, I had often visited the Zuerich museum, but not knowing of the existence of these collars, had passed them by unnoticed. It was not until I had read a story by Dr. La Roche, written in a book to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Kennel Club (Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft), that I knew there was such an exhibit there.

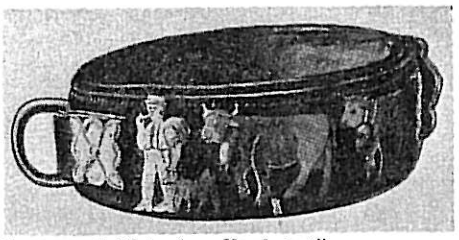
At that time, Dr. La Roche was eager to find some facts to prove the existence of the so-called war dogs of his forefathers. Little is known of these dogs except that they were mentioned by several historians. It is believed that they were used by the early Swiss mountaineers to help protect the country from invasion, and to free the Swiss from the tyranny of the House of Austria. There is nothing definite to be found, however, to prove that these war dogs ever existed; in fact, there are many who say they are a myth.

In the course of his search, Dr. La Roche had visited the museum to ascertain if the collars had ever been used by war-dogs. Dr. Gessler, the historian of the museum, informed Dr. La Roche that the collars had not been used by these dogs, but that they belonged to a somewhat later period. The majority had been used on the watch and hunting dogs of the early part of the 18th Century.



Courtesy of the Swiss National Museum, Zuerich

I determined to see the collars, and to gather the information available. Dr. K. Frei, vice-director of the museum, offered to be my escort; and he was, indeed, a great help. He not only showed me the collars and gave me all the information I desired, but also obtained the original photographs, which are here reproduced.



Courtesy of "Schweizer Hundesport"

Here is the national collar of the canton Appenzell. It is only worn by the Appenzeller Sennenhunde

THE dog-collars which may be seen grouped together at the top of this page, hang in a long glass case, on the left hand wall of the corridor leading to the armory. They are surrounded by many interesting hunting implements, which probably belong to the same historical period.

When I first saw these collars I was amazed! Not by the materials from which they are made, but by their crude, yet practicable, designs. One cannot

doubt but that they fitted their purpose admirably.

Several are nothing more than heavy wire, twisted and turned to form a collar, thickly studded with thorns and spikes. Others are made from a metal similar to cast iron but much lighter in weight. There are a few which are just broad brass bands, richly engraved with scrolls and figures, some bearing the name of the one time owner. Needless to say, these cumbersome collars would look sadly out of place on the necks of our pure-bred dogs today.

Courtesy of the Swiss National Museum, Zuerich

In this old wood carving, dated 1661, may be seen two dogs whose necks and ears are protected by spiked collars

The collars, Numbers 1, 2 and 3, were used for watchdogs on lonely farms. Often miles from their nearest neighbors, these farms were without protection other than that furnished by their dogs. At night, the dogs were entirely at the mercy of bears and wolves, which often prowled around these lonely homesteads. It can readily be seen that the collars were absolutely necessary, not only to help protect the dogs from fatal injury, but also to insure the safety of the farms.

Number 4 is heavier and of a less elaborate make. Dr. La Roche believes that this type of collar was used on the watchdogs which were chained in the courtyards of the castles. He states in his story, that a similar collar, bearing the dates "15th-16th Century," is to be found in the museum at Basle.

Numbers 6 and 7 can be seen on the old wood carving, dated 1661, that appears on this page. In the carving, some dogs are shown attacking a bear, which has been wounded by the hunter. One dog, without a collar, is seen lying dead at the side of the bear; while two others, wearing collars similar to Number 7, are attacking. Notice how well their necks and closely cropped ears are protected by the spikes of the collars.

THE dogs shown in the cut are of various breeds, no doubt different crosses to obtain the most desirable characteristics for the purpose for which they were used. Some look like a cross between a greyhound and a Great Dane; somewhat heavier than the greyhound, and more lithe than the Dane. Some look like beagles. Yet it is hard to believe that any were pure-bred in those days.

THE collars, Numbers 8, 9, and 10, are different from the others. These collars were worn by the dogs belonging to the gentry of the earlier half of the 18th Century. Number 8 bears the name of a captain in the Swiss army; and Number 10, that of a colonel. The broad brass collars were worn by the dogs of the gentry when hunting wolves; the spiked ones for the bear hunt.

A most mysterious thing is that the dog of which we have all heard at some time or another—the dog which made his breed famous by his brave deeds—the life-saving St. Bernard, Barry, which belonged to the monks of the Hospice of St. Bernard, wears a collar similar to Number 2.

Courtesy of the Museum of Natural History, Berne

It is difficult to understand why the stuffed figure of the great Barry in the Museum of Natural History, Berne, should wear a spiked collar, instead of a liquor cask

SINCE this collar was worn by the watch and hunting dogs of the 18th Century, it hardly belongs on this heroic, old animal. We expect to see the proverbial leather collar, with its small cask of brandy attached so as to be within easy reach of the exhausted traveler's hand—the traveler whom the dog might unearth in the treacherous snow of the high Alps.

Perhaps Dr. La Roche was right in his surmise when he wrote:

"Probably it was to save the old dog from being attacked by the fierce dogs in the valley, on his last journey down to Berne. No matter what the reason, it is hard to understand."

Barry saved more than 40 human lives from certain death in the snow and ice, during the 12 years he was with the monks at the Hospice. When he was 12 years old, he was taken to Berne to be cared for, as long as he lived. He died in 1814, at the age of 14, and was then preserved and placed in the Museum of Natural History at Berne, in 1815.

Unfortunately, the taxidermists of that time were not as skilful as those of today. As a result, the old dog was a sorry sight. His proud, old head was bowed almost to the ground, his stifles were weak from old age and hard work. In all, he did not present the splendid figure which he really was, in his task of saving human lives from death.

In 1923, he was taken in hand by a modern taxidermist. His old coat was restored and placed over a new model. The artist did his work well. And Barry now has a place of honor in the hall of the Museum, commanding the attention of the visitor. With his head high and proud, he stands, as a fine specimen of a breed of whose brave deeds his native country is justly proud.

Another dog-collar—

(*Please turn to page* 120)

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stalk, leaving your tracker and handler behind. You get closer and closer until you are finally crawling on all fours. A glimpse of a huge brown body is seen for an instant. A careful and quick aim, not so easy when you may be dropping from fatigue and you, and the sights of your gun, heave with your panting. Your shot was true, a heavy body crashes to earth, you dash forward and see again that never-to-be-forgotten picture of your elkhound standing on his quarry, and tearing at it with snarling fury.

For this kind of work, a keen nose, courage, and a short, rugged, powerful physique are so essential in the elkhound that these attributes have come to be characteristic of the breed. Look at that tremendous chest and short back. They give the typical elkhound a blocky, almost a "cubic" appearance, and insure the necessary agility to save his life when attacked by the moose, and the endurance to follow his quarry hour after hour if necessary.

You have seen your dog tenaciously follow his quarry perhaps all day, bringing it to successive stands until, finally, he was able to hold his moose long enough for you to draw near and shoot. You are not surprised that an elkhound has been known to keep a Norwegian brown bear—very like a grizzly—at bay, single handed, for a whole day. Docile and affectionate, often rather shy and reserved about your home, your dog is completely transformed in the deep forests, with his background of thousands of years of hunting big game urging him on.

The accompanying snapshots were taken in the winter after the hunting season had ended. Our hunting season for moose in Norway is the last five days in September, i. e., during the mating season. We rarely have snow as early as that. The snapshots were taken during the winter by Mr. Bjorneby. One shows two elkhounds keeping at bay an old bull which has shed his horns.

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WHY COLLARS WERE WORN BY EARLY SWISS DOGS

(*Continued from page* 24)

more modern and still in use in Switzerland, today—is the national collar of the canton Appenzell. This collar is only worn by one breed of dog, one of the four species of Swiss mountain dog, the "Appenzeller Sennenhunde" (the drover's dog). This is a dog about the size of an Eskimo sled-dog; a smooth-coated tricolor, which like its master, is full of life and fun.

The collar is made of a large brass band mounted on red felt. The brass is covered with raised figures of cattle, wearing their huge bronze bells. In the foreground is the drover, dressed in the picturesque costume of the canton; and at his heel is his dog, with its brass collar.

These figures represent the "Alpfahrt," as it is called; the time when the cattle are rounded up from the various villages of the canton, and given to the drover and his dog to be

p.121

taken into the Alps for the few summer months. During their exile, the drover and his dog are inseparable. They seldom see another living thing except their cattle, which they must tend and protect night and day.

During the festival, the inhabitants of the canton gather together in gala dress to wish them "God speed." They are sent off with blessings, and received back with thanksgiving. It is a sight once seen that will not be forgotten. The singing "Yodel," the melodious tingle of the cow bells and musical instruments, the lowing of the cattle, and the barking of dogs, can be heard for miles.

While, at present, this collar is not part of the collection at the museum, it will, probably, some day, take its place beside those of earlier periods. Its history, and that of the others, will be handed down from generation to generation; giving foundation to the fact that the dog has always been a fine companion, a great helper, and a faithful protector of his master.

THE MARDORMERE KENNELS INSIST ITS COCKERS BE BOTH "QUICK AND MERRY"

(*Continued from page* 18)

The room is about 12 x 15 feet. The walls are of knotted pine, and this combines with the unfinished beams to give a definitely old effect. At one side is an open fireplace. Facing the fire is a long couch. An antique batter holder is used for a coffee table, and chairs, benches, a butter tub, a desk, and a cabinet—all more than a century old —find appropriate, if sometimes different, modern usage.

The cabinet contains an unusual collection of pottery dogs, including some of the finest examples of Liverpool, Bennington, and Staffordshire, and some Magelica plates with dogs on them. Everything decorative in the room is related in some manner to dogs. The electric light fixtures bear the silhouette of Ch. My Own Right of Way.

The Mardormere hospital is a small building, 12 x 8 feet, but it is completely equipped to hold a dozen dogs. It has its own heating unit. This hospital is located some 50 feet from the main kennel, and it has its own runs, double-fenced. While this little building has found no serious use for sick dogs, it is often convenient for isolating show dogs, just returned from the circuit of indoor shows, from which,

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